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THE HISTORY OF COLEBROOK

By Irving E. Manchester

AND OTHER PAPERS

1935

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OF

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For Reuben Rockwell, Jr. of Colebrook see also Biographical Review ...
Sketches of the Leading Citizens of Litchfield County, Connecticut,
Boston, Biographical Review Publishing Company, 1896, p. 307 f.

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FOREWORD

At the observance, in September, 1929, of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Colebrook, Connecticut, the chairman of the general committee, Mr. Norman F. Thompson, Jr., promised those in attendance that a history of Colebrook would be published as soon as possible following the completion of such a manuscript. This book would also contain excerpts from speeches given on that occasion and would be a permanent souvenir of the sesqui-centennial. Many orders for the history were then placed enthusiastically and Mr. Irving E. Manchester, historian, began his task of drawing aside the curtain from the past. But history is neither made nor written in a day and he has had to verify tradition and hearsay at great effort by the use of records obtained from old letters, diaries, Town reports and early newspapers.

Mr. Thompson's death occurred in 1933, but his committee has developed the plans which he had outlined and now presents this book to a public which loves Colebrook and (as Mr. Thompson used to call it) "God's Country."

Colebrook, Connecticut, August, 1935.

CONTENTS

THE HISTORY OF COLEBROOK, *by Irving E. Manchester:*

| | |
|--|---------|
| CHAPTER I | Page 7 |
| When the White Man Came; Wild Life and Physical Characteristics | |
| CHAPTER II | Page 10 |
| Western Lands; Colebrook Allotted to 79 Windsor Proprietors. | |
| CHAPTER III | Page 13 |
| First Proprietors' Meetings; Capt. Roger Newberry, clerk; The Wolcotts. | |
| CHAPTER IV | Page 16 |
| Plan for Division of Township; The First Highway. | |
| CHAPTER V | Page 19 |
| Appointment of Committee to Divide Land; Acceptance of Report. | |
| CHAPTER VI | Page 21 |
| The Original Proprietors, 1720; Proprietors to Whom Land was Allotted, 1760. | |
| CHAPTER VII | Page 25 |
| The Old North Road; Historic Colonial Highway. | |
| CHAPTER VIII | Page 28 |
| Proprietors' Meetings; Number Three Road; First Sawmill. | |
| CHAPTER IX | Page 30 |
| Early Settlers: Benjamin Horton, Capt. Joseph Rockwell. | |
| CHAPTER X | Page 33 |
| Captain Samuel Rockwell, Town Leader. | |
| CHAPTER XI | Page 36 |
| Revolutionary War; Robertsville Forge; Richard Smith. | |
| CHAPTER XII | Page 44 |
| Colebrook Militia; Lexington Alarm; The Struggle for Independence. | |
| CHAPTER XIII | Page 46 |
| Incorporation; The First Town Meeting. | |
| CHAPTER XIV | Page 50 |
| School Districts, Roads and Other Town Problems. | |
| CHAPTER XV | Page 54 |
| The Rockwell Iron Forges. | |
| CHAPTER XVI | Page 57 |
| Town Relief; Waterbury Turnpike. | |
| CHAPTER XVII | Page 59 |
| Religious Services; Movement to Build a Meeting House. | |

| | |
|--|----------|
| CHAPTER XVIII | Page 64 |
| The Fourteen Years' Controversy Ends Happily; Ministerial and Parsonage Lots. | |
| CHAPTER XIX | Page 68 |
| Rev. Jonathan Edwards Jr., D. D., First Pastor. | |
| CHAPTER XX | Page 74 |
| Rev. Chauncey Lee, D. D.; The Longest Pastorate. | |
| CHAPTER XXI | Page 81 |
| Tense Religious Period; Colebrook Pastor in Abolition Work. | |
| CHAPTER XXII | Page 85 |
| Building the Present Congregational Church | |
| CHAPTER XXIII | Page 87 |
| Later Ministers. | |
| CHAPTER XXIV | Page 89 |
| Colebrook River. | |
| CHAPTER XXV | Page 97 |
| The Hemlock Meeting House and Robertsville. | |
| CHAPTER XXVI | Page 100 |
| The North Colebrook Baptist Church. | |
| CHAPTER XXVII | Page 103 |
| Sandy Brook by Frederick T. Persons. | |
| CHAPTER XXVIII | Page 109 |
| Brief Records of Some of the Early Families (arranged alphabetically). | |
| CHAPTER XXIX | Page 139 |
| MEMORIES OF COLEBROOK, 1868-1877, by <i>Jane E. Williams Smith</i> | Page 142 |
| THE STORY OF THE DEMOCRATIC FLAG, by <i>Katharine Carrington</i> | Page 177 |
| ONE HUNDRED FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF COLEBROOK | Page 179 |
| OBSERVANCE OF CONNECTICUT TERCENTENARY IN COLEBROOK | Page 206 |
| IN CONCLUSION | Page 207 |

ILLUSTRATIONS

MAP OF THE ORIGINAL SURVEY OF COLEBROOK.
 ROCKWELL HALL.
 ROCKWELL'S.
 COLEBROOK CENTER.
 PHELP'S INN.
 COLEBROOK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

CHAPTER I

When the White Man Came; Wild Life and Physical Characteristics

More than three centuries ago, in 1633, when that doughty explorer and Indian trader, John Oldham, made his way with three companions across the country through trackless forests or along old Indian trails from Massachusetts Bay Colony finally descending into the broad, beautiful valley of the Connecticut River, it was estimated there were 3,000 Indians among the "River tribes" at Windsor, Hartford and Wethersfield. Farther west about ten miles over the majestic Talcott range of mountains in the quiet, peaceful valley of the Farmington or Tunxis River was a tribe known as the Tunxis or Sepous with a population possibly of 400.

Seventeen years before, Adriaen Block, a Dutch explorer, had sailed up the Long or Quinni-tuk-et River, as the Indians called it, nearly to Windsor and soon afterward the Dutch established a flourishing trade in furs with the Indians. The same year that Oldham arrived Jacob Van Curler, at the head of a party of Dutchmen, erected a fort and trading post at Hartford.

The "River Indians" were peaceably inclined but were hemmed in by the Pequot warriors toward the east and on the west by the dreaded Mohawks who made frequent excursions from the Hudson and Mohawk River country into Connecticut to collect tribute. A few months after Oldham's exploration, William Holmes, from Plymouth Colony, sailed up the river by the Dutch fort and erected a trading post below the junction of the Connecticut and Farmington Rivers at Windsor. It is stated that he brought with him the great Sachem of that region, Sequassen or Sequeen, who had been in exile among the Narragansetts because of the conquest of the country by the neighboring Pequots.

By 1635 the English had settled in the Connecticut Valley in such numbers, including women and children, that the Colony may be said to have become firmly established. Sequassen sold to the newcomers land "without stint or hesitation," deeding to them the whole region westward, including the territory of the Tunxis and the land in which Colebrook is now included as far as the country of the Mohawks. The land was bought of the Indians over and over and in some instances as many as six or seven times. It is quite

possible that these ancient deeds given by Sequassen and other Sachems laid the foundation for the later claims of Windsor and Hartford to these "Western Lands" in which we are particularly interested. The result was the ultimate ownership of Colebrook by a group of Windsor taxpayers or proprietors, as they were called, who directed its settlement more than a century and a quarter after Sequassen had sold to the magistrates of Hartford, as the Farmington records state, "the whole country to the Moohaks' country." From the Connecticut River to the Hudson was a continuous forest with an occasional bald peak. The wild, rugged woodland dotted here and there by silvery lakes and traversed by swift running streams and gurgling brooks made a strong appeal to the hunter and lover of nature. The mountains rising higher and higher toward the westward afforded the most fascinating, panoramic scenery and made one wish to venture forth to see what was beyond. The country was not impassable for the underbrush was frequently cleared by fires kindled by the Indians. There were trails over which the Red Men and animals traveled from one lake or stream to another in single file. The forests were filled with game and beasts of prey. Quail, partridges and song birds were found in abundance. Wild turkeys were frequently discovered. Wild geese were regular visitors. The waters swarmed with fowl and fish and an occasional heron was seen along the shores of a pond. Bears lumbered down the mountain sides. The howling of wolves was heard echoing across the valleys. Deer sought the feeding spots watered by the springs and browsed along the shores of the lakes and ponds. There were panthers or "painters" as they were called by the old settlers. Beaver dams and houses were found occasionally. Wild cats infested the forests and raccoons, rabbits and squirrels were common even as they are today. Into this region the Indians came in the spring and set up their wigwams beside some pond or river, camping through the summer and autumn just as the city dwellers do today. They spent the time fishing and hunting, securing the pelts of the fur-bearing animals and laying up a store of food for the winter. The white settlers built a number of forts as a protection from the ravages of the Indians, especially from the raids of the Mohawks. As late as 1850, Henry Mennasseh, believed to have been the last of the Tunxis, a descendant of Solomon Mossock, a Farmington Indian who married the daughter of Chaugham, chief of the tribe at Satan's Kingdom, was sentenced to life imprisonment in Wethersfield for participating in the murder of Bernice White of Colebrook River. Later

he was pardoned, it having been shown he was only an accessory, and died in the town house at Farmington.

How a quadrilateral of land comprising approximately 21,000 acres, in the rough, mountainous country along the northern border of Connecticut, traversed by several swift running streams and mostly covered with forests, came to be blocked out into a township and named Colebrook and later to be peopled and to play an important part in the Commonwealth is an interesting story.

Situated in Litchfield County in the northern section of the large tract originally known as the "Western Lands," the territory within the boundaries of Colebrook possesses some of the most picturesque and romantic scenery in Connecticut. Its elevation above sea level varies more than 1,000 feet; ranging from 560 feet in the southeasterly corner to 1,580 feet near the Massachusetts' line, and affording many magnificent views from its mountain ridges, which occur in irregular formations over a large part of the township. Mount Pisgah, almost in the geographical center of Colebrook, has an elevation of 1,440 feet. Deep valleys mark the east portion in which flow the West Branch of the Farmington River and Sandy Brook, the latter having cut a gorge diagonally across the town from North Colebrook in the northwesterly corner where it enters from Norfolk, to Robertsville at the southeast corner where it is joined by Still River and flows out of the town into Barkhamsted, merging with the Farmington River at Riverton. These rivers together with their tributaries; Slocum Brook from Tolland, Mass., mountains flowing into the Farmington River at Colebrook River; Viets Brook from Sandisfield, Mass., out of which Christopher Chenery has made a reservoir; Doolittle and Loon Brooks from Norfolk, which flow into Sandy Brook; Phelps or Mill Brook in the southwest corner of the town; and the brook from Rowley Pond which winds through the meadows, entering Colebrook from Winchester, forming Brookside Pond and then tumbling down the mountainside and recrossing the town line, all afforded power for saw mills, tanneries and other manufactories in former days. Another interesting stream is Grandfather's Brook, which flows down the western mountain slope of the Sandy Brook valley, dividing into as many as six branches, which form a series of pretty cascades and then unite in the valley.

There is considerable good farm land in Colebrook and much timber land with hard woods and forests of hemlock and pine. These with a profusion of mountain laurel, gave this section the name of the "Green Woods" country.

CHAPTER II

"Western Lands"; Colebrook Allotted to 79 Windsor Proprietors

The history of Colebrook may be assumed to begin with the grant of land by the General Court of the Colony of Connecticut, January 26, 1686, to the towns of Hartford and Windsor, of the large tract known as the "Western Lands," situated "on the north of Woodbury and Matatock (Waterbury) and on the west of Farmington and Simsbury, to the Massachusetts' line north, and to run west to the Housatunnuck River (provided it be not, or part of it, formerly granted to any particular persons) to make a plantation or villages thereon."

This was followed by the arrival in Boston in April of that year, of Sir Edmund Andross in the frigate, *Kingfisher*, as the Captain-general and Governor-in-chief of New England, resulting in the episode in October, 1687, of his coming to Hartford, his demand for the surrender of the Connecticut Charter, the blowing out of the lights at the meeting when the charter was about to be given up and the spiriting away and hiding of the precious document in the famous Charter Oak tree by Captain Joseph Wadsworth. Up to this time few if any human beings had set foot upon the soil lying within the bounds of Colebrook except the Indians who fished its streams and hunted in its woods and fields and possibly a few venturesome explorers.

After Sir Edmund Andross' departure in 1689, a bitter controversy arose over the intent of the grant of the "Western Lands" to Hartford and Windsor and the validity of their claim, and it was forty years after Andross left before the dispute was finally settled by compromise. It was claimed by the Colony that the conveyance was made to the towns to hold the land for the Governor and Company "until those times of danger and trouble should be past; but not as their property." But the towns persisted in their claim that it was granted to them for settlement and they continued to locate and sell parcels of the land. The township of Litchfield, originally New Bantam, was laid out about 1717 and disposed of to settlers, and a new town north of Litchfield, including Goshen, the west half of Torrington and a part of Winchester was surveyed by a committee and its report accepted in 1723.

The General Assembly then interfered with the proceedings and finally a petition was presented to that body in 1724 by Governor Talcott, Matthew Allyn and Roger Wolcott, Esquires, for an amicable settlement of the long controversy. A committee consisting of James Wadsworth, John and Hezekiah Brainard was appointed to investigate the Hartford and Windsor claim. The committee reported two years later, and, on May 26, 1726, a resolution was adopted by the General Assembly which provided that the lands should be divided between the Colony and the two towns, the Colony to have the western portion embracing Norfolk, Goshen, North Canaan, Canaan, Cornwall, Warren and about two-thirds of Kent, and Hartford and Windsor the eastern portion comprising Colebrook, Winchester, Torrington, Hartland, Barkhamsted, New Hartford and Harwinton, an area of 291,806 acres. The Colony land west of the Housatonic River, Salisbury, Sharon and that part of Kent, were not included in the original grant, possibly because it was thought to be too far away to be subject to seizure, but it may have been taken into account in the settlement, otherwise the division was very unequal. The dividing line was the present boundary line between Norfolk and Goshen on the west and Colebrook, Winchester and Torrington on the east.

The Governor and Company gave a patent of the eastern division of the land to Hartford and Windsor on May 29, 1729, and the ratification of the compact was completed August 30, 1729, thus ending the long controversy.

The proprietors of Hartford and Windsor made a further division of the land allotted them by a deed of partition executed February 11, 1732, in which each town was given a patent of four parcels lying within the tract. Hartford received title to the land contained within the towns of Hartland, Winchester, New Hartford and the easterly half of Harwinton and Windsor was allotted the parcels embracing Colebrook, Barkhamsted, Torrington and the westerly half of Harwinton; each taking alternate parcels of the mountainous tract in order that there might be a fair and equitable division. In less than two months thereafter, on April 7, 1732, the proprietors of Windsor allotted the four parcels containing Windsor's final share in the "Western Lands" to four respective groups of proprietors or patentees, "to have and to hold the same in severalty, to them and their heirs forever."

The third parcel named in the warrant was Colebrook, then supposedly containing 18,199 acres. The following month, May, 1732, the General Assembly enacted that it should forever be called "Colebrook," named for Colebrook in Devon-

shire, England. It was first written by the proprietors' clerk "Cold-brook." The usual powers and privileges were granted to Captain Samuel Mather, Henry Wolcott and seventy-seven other proprietors to whom Colebrook was allotted, vesting in them all the powers necessary for disposing of the lands and securing them forever to those who should purchase. The same proceeding was taken with respect to each of the other six towns and the names of all were designated at that time in one act of the Assembly. Each proprietor or taxpayer of Hartford and Windsor on the grand lists of 1720 (nine years before the final settlement) or his heirs or assigns became the proprietor of a share of land in one of the seven towns, in proportion to the amount of his list and the value per acre placed on the land in the respective townships. The assessed valuation of the property in Windsor of the seventy-nine proprietors to whom Colebrook was allotted was 3,989 pounds, four shillings, three pence.

As soon as it was determined in 1729 that the proprietors of Hartford and Windsor of record in 1720 had individual rights in the "Western Lands" there were those who immediately began to anticipate their new found property and cash-in on it by selling or conveying their rights possibly in some instances for long standing debts. Some let their new property slip away while others bought and acquired more of it.

The first conveyance of Colebrook land by a Windsor proprietor was made on October 7, 1729, when Thomas Crow of that town, in consideration of forty shillings received of Daniel Griswold, Jr., also of Windsor, deeded to Mr. Griswold his right in a parcel of land in the tract known as the "Western Lands" granted by the General Assembly to the towns of Hartford and Windsor; bounded "easterly on Farmington and Simsbury, westerly on Colony land, northwardly on ye Colony line and it lyeth on ye bounds of the town of Litchfield on ye north, east and west sides." The deed was acknowledged before Matthew Allyn, a Justice. It was not known in what township the land was located for it was two and a half years before Colebrook was allotted to the seventy-nine Windsor proprietors of whom Mr. Crow was one. The deed was recorded by the proprietors' clerk in January, 1733. The land as finally determined consisted of three parcels conveyed in the division of 1760 to Benjamin Palmer, being the fifty-ninth allotment.

CHAPTER III

*First Proprietors' Meeting; Capt. Roger Newberry,
Clerk; the Wolcotts*

The land in Colebrook had finally come into specific ownership. Many deeds conveying rights in the land were executed. Several of the rights passed into the estates of deceased persons. There was a constantly changing group of owners. Strange as it may seem, another generation of people was to grow up before the land was divided and a settlement of the town was begun, though Colebrook is only about twenty-five miles from Windsor.

Nine months after the allotment of Windsor's share in the "Western Lands," a petition, dated January 12, 1733, was addressed by five of the proprietors of Colebrook, Samuel Mather, Thomas Allyn, Josiah Allyn, David Loomis and John Palmer, to Matthew Allyn, Esq., of Windsor, for a warrant to call a meeting of the Colebrook proprietors. In response thereto, Justice Allyn directed Mr. Palmer to give notice that such a meeting to be held in the meeting house "on the west side of the Great River (Connecticut) in Windsor," at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of January 30, 1733, which Mr. Palmer did by posting notices in three places. At this first meeting, Lieut. Henry Wolcott was chosen moderator and Roger Newberry clerk. It was voted that Capt. Josiah Phelps, Roger Newberry and Thomas Allyn be a committee, with representatives from the neighboring towns, to perambulate the town lines of Colebrook, "to view and see the land lying in said Colebrook and form thereof." It was voted to allow Mr. Newberry ten shillings a day and Capt. Phelps and Mr. Allyn each eight shillings a day for their services. It was further voted that upon the application of any five of the proprietors, the clerk be authorized to call a proprietors' meeting by giving notice of the time, place and reason for the meeting at least ten days in advance. The next meeting was not held until eleven years later, in 1744.

On the fly leaf of the first book containing the proprietors' records is written in a cramped, scrawling hand: "The first book of records for Colebrook Township, 1732/3." and under this another date, "Anno Mundi, 5736" (year of the world) and the initials "R. N." for Roger Newberry, the clerk. The last entry in the Colebrook records made in his handwriting was on August 12, 1740. This is of especial historical interest

for a few months later he died as a brave soldier in the cause of his king and the colonies.

Capt. Roger Newberry, chosen clerk at the first meeting of the proprietors of Colebrook, was born in Windsor, June 4, 1706. His father died in military service when Roger was three years of age. Roger was graduated from Yale College in 1726 and established himself as a merchant in Windsor. He was a deputy from Windsor in the Connecticut Assembly from May, 1735 to 1740. He had previously entered the military service and was commissioned ensign in May, 1728, and a year later was promoted to lieutenant. The war between England and Spain broke out in 1739 and the next year 1,000 Connecticut troops were sent on an expedition against the Spanish West Indies, in which Roger Newberry commanded a company as captain. Yellow fever broke out among the troops and on April 17, 1741, they re-embarked for Jamaica. On this voyage the crew became helplessly intoxicated. Arising from a sick berth, Capt. Newberry went on deck and took command of the ship. Mustering his soldiers he confined the seamen in irons. He was in command for two days but as a result of the exposure in his sick condition he died suddenly on ship board. His widow, Elizabeth Wolcott Newberry, a daughter of Hon. Roger Wolcott and a sister of Hon. Oliver Wolcott, continued to operate the store in Windsor and a farm in Wintonbury (Bloomfield). She died July 16, 1775.

Lieut. Henry Wolcott who was moderator of the first proprietors' meeting of Colebrook was a brother of Hon. Roger Wolcott and married for his first wife Jane Allyn, the sister of Thomas Allyn, Jr., who was appointed at that meeting with Capt. Josiah Phelps and Capt. Newberry to perambulate the town lines.

The second meeting of the Colebrook proprietors was held on February 14, 1744. Hon. Roger Wolcott, then deputy governor of the Colony was named moderator and his son, Josiah Wolcott, was chosen clerk to succeed his brother-in-law, Capt. Newberry, deceased. At this meeting, Capt. Peletiah Mills, Ensign John Palmer and Peletiah Allyn, Jr., or any two of them, were empowered to act as agents or attorneys for the proprietors and to appear and prosecute in their behalf. At an adjourned meeting, April 9, 1744, the proprietors ordered that no trees or timber be felled or carried away, nor any entry or improvement be made upon the land without liberty being granted at a proprietors' meeting or until the proprietors agreed to a partition of the land. This action was necessary to prevent depredations as some of the neighboring towns which were being settled had had trouble from encroachments.

Peletiah Allyn, mentioned above, later became one of the first settlers in Barkhamsted. Among the proprietors of Colebrook who had an important part in the early affairs of the town, it will be noted, were some of the most prominent citizens of the Colony, including several members of the Wolcott family.

It is said that the moderator, Hon. Roger Wolcott, Esq., never attended a public school as it was impossible to maintain a school in Windsor when he was a boy on account of the persistent attacks of the Indians. He was apprenticed to a weaver at fifteen years of age and a little later called himself a "cloathier." He went into business at twenty-one, was a commissary of the Connecticut troops in the expedition against Canada in 1711. In 1714 he was a member of the Governor's Council. He was appointed a judge of the County court, 1721, and a judge of the Supreme court, 1732, and was chosen Deputy Governor and Chief Justice of the Supreme court, 1741, which offices he held in 1744, at the time of the meeting of Colebrook proprietors. The next year as Major-General he commanded the Connecticut troops in the siege of Louisburg, being second in command to Sir William Pepperell. He was elected Governor in 1750, retiring four years later. He was moderator again of a very important meeting of the Colebrook proprietors in 1757. He married Sarah, daughter of Job Drake, an original proprietor, and became a large land owner in Colebrook. By a deed executed January 26, 1749, and recorded in Colebrook, Gov. Wolcott, "in consideration of the love and affection" that he had for his daughter, Elizabeth Newberry, conveyed to her half his land and rights to land in Colebrook.

Josiah Wolcott, second proprietors' clerk, wrote with a great flourish on the fly leaf of the record book where Roger Newberry's initials appear: "Josiah Wolcott's Book, 1744." The Colebrook records were entered in this book thirty-seven years, the last entry in Josiah Wolcott's handwriting being July 16, 1770, of a quit claim of his brother Oliver Wolcott (signer of the Declaration of Independence) to his sister, Elizabeth Newberry, of four pieces of land in Colebrook. Josiah Wolcott then opened the second proprietors' book and the last deed recorded by him in that book was May 27, 1783. He was proprietors' clerk for more than thirty-nine years and it is due to his painstaking care that the early records of Colebrook are preserved so well.

CHAPTER IV

Plan for Division of Township; The First Highway

The first step toward the actual division of land in Colebrook was taken at a meeting of the proprietors in Windsor. May 24, 1756, more than twelve years having elapsed since the previous meeting. Colebrook was the last of all the towns in northwestern Connecticut to be settled due to a number of reasons. There was smoother and more accessible land in the towns at the south and west; it was laborious and costly work to improve rough timber land; there was a large amount of land offered for settlement in proportion to the number of prospective settlers and the land was held at a high valuation. Harwinton was the first of the seven towns in the group to be settled, five families arriving there as early as 1731.

At last after a quarter of a century, definite action was taken toward the settlement of Colebrook. Capt. Josiah Phelps was chosen moderator of this third proprietors' meeting. A committee composed of Capt. Peletiah Mills, Capt. Josiah Phelps, James Rockwell, Major Nathaniel Filley and Erastus Wolcott was appointed to run a line around Colebrook and erect proper monuments, and "to lay out a highway six rods in width northwardly and southwardly through said town as near the middle thereof as they shall judge most convenient for ye accommodating travile and the inhabitants ye may thereafter settle in said town."

It was voted "to impower said committee to chuse a surveyor for ye purpose aforesaid and yet the same committee be impowered to prosecute in the law any parson or parsons that have trespassed on said land." The committee was directed to make a report of its doings at the next meeting.

The Colebrook proprietors voted to raise seven pounds lawful money to defray the necessary charges. Erastus Wolcott was appointed to "make ve rate bill"; Joseph Rockwell, "ye collector to gather said rate," this being the first tax that was levied, and Josiah Wolcott, the clerk, was elected treasurer. Erastus Wolcott, a brother of Josiah and Oliver Wolcott, became a judge of the Superior court, a member of Congress and a brigadier general in command of Connecticut troops in the Revolutionary war.

The road which the committee was directed to lay out, the first ordered in the town, intersected the original Colony

road near the southern boundary and extends from what was known as South Colebrook through Colebrook Center, known latterly as the Smith Hill road.

Four months before a similar committee had been appointed by the Hartford proprietors to survey and renew the bounds of Winchester and to report a plan for laying out that town and settling the same. Adam Mott's tavern on the old South road near Winchester Center had been in existence two years. Barkhamsted had had a settler for ten years. In 1756, Peletiah Allvn, Jr., a Colebrook Proprietor, moved from New Hartford to land he had cleared in Barkhamsted. There had been a division of land in Norfolk the year before and nine families had settled there. Litchfield County had been organized five years with twelve towns.

The meeting of May 24 was adjourned to the first Monday in October but no meeting was held until a year later, October 18, 1757, when the real work of partitioning the township was begun. Gov. Roger Wolcott was moderator of this meeting. It was first voted that there be laid out ten acres of land in a convenient place at or near the center of the town for building a meeting house and place of parade; next that there be laid out convenient and sufficient highways in the town not exceeding six rods in width; third, that there be laid out sixty acres for "the first orthodox minister that shall be ordained in said town, to have and to hold to him and his heirs, forever"; fourth, that there be laid out 100 acres as a parsonage lot for the use of "an orthodox ministry, the profits always and at all times to belong to the minister that is ordained and settled in the town, the land never to be alienated from said use under any pretense whatsoever"; fifth, that there be laid out 100 acres for the use and maintenance of a school or schools under the tuition of such schoolmaster or schoolmistress as should be employed by the inhabitants, and this land was never to be alienated from said use. The meeting was then adjourned for six days when the proprietors agreed upon the plan of dividing the land. It was voted that the township be laid out in eight tiers of lots to run north and south parallel to the western boundary, each tier to be three-fourths of a mile in width except the easterly tier which was found not quite as wide as the southerly end. Then the committee to be appointed was to lay out the lots in three divisions to the proprietors, "in length east and west in ye tier," the committee to cast lots to determine the order in which the lots should be laid out, beginning at the southwest corner and continuing successively until the first division

was completed and after that to lay out the other two divisions in the same manner and order.

The lots were to be drawn according to the list of original proprietors (1720) and laid out to the present proprietors (1757). A purchaser from an original proprietor was to own the lot where it was drawn for his grantor. If a proprietor owned several original rights the lots were to be laid out together at the place where the lot for the proprietor from whom it was first purchased fell, providing no lot laid out on several original rights should exceed 300 acres, but a lot laid out on one original right was to contain the land that belonged to it. This rule was to be observed in all divisions.

The committee was directed to lay out a highway between each tier ten rods in width and cross highways between the lots as they should judge convenient. Plans for these could be changed later when they were better informed where it was best for the highways to be located. The committee was directed to give a full report of its doings in laying out the parade ground, the parsonage and school lots and first minister's lot, the highways and all the divisions with the quantity of land, bounds, compass directions and distances and lay it before the proprietors for their approval and that it might be recorded. It was also directed to keep an exact account of its expenses.

CHAPTER V

*Appointment of Committee to Divide Land;
Acceptance of Report*

The committee then appointed and fully empowered to act was as follows: Capt. Josiah Phelps, 2nd. Capt. Peletiah Mills, Capt. Oliver Wolcott, Nathaniel Filley, James Rockwell and Ephraim Wolcott, or any three of them. The committee was authorized to sell as much land as was needful to pay the costs of such as refused to pay the tax. Each committeeman was required to take oath that he would faithfully perform the service without fear or favor or hope of reward. A tax of 120 pounds was voted on the list of the original proprietors to be paid by the present proprietors according to their rights as patentees or purchasers. Josiah Wolcott, clerk, was directed to make the rate bill, and if the tax was not paid by the 15th of March, next, so much of the proprietor's land was to be sold as would make the payment. Thomas Skinner and Roger Newberry, Jr., were appointed collectors, Capt. John Palmer, treasurer, and William Wolcott and Aaron Bissell, auditors. Ebenezer Miller of Farmington was appointed to prosecute trespassers in Colebrook.

The next proprietors' meeting was held January 2, 1760, when a committee was authorized to sell at auction enough common land to make up the several sums of the non-paying proprietors, and the clerk was empowered to buy a book for recording the acts of the proprietors, the deeds, the layout of highways, reports of committees, etc. However, the first record book was used for ten years longer.

The third member of the proprietors' committee appointed to divide the land, Capt. Oliver Wolcott, had an even more distinguished career than his illustrious father, Gov. Roger Wolcott, or his brother, Erastus. Born in Windsor, November 20, 1726, he was graduated from Yale in 1747, was commissioned a captain in the army, recruited a company and marched to the Northern frontier where he was active in the French and Indian war. Returning as a Major-General, he began the practice of medicine in Goshen, and was appointed first sheriff of Litchfield County when it was organized in 1751, moving to Litchfield. He was sheriff twenty years. He was a member of the Connecticut Council from 1774 to 1786, a delegate to the Continental Congress, judge of the Litchfield

County Court, took his seat in the second Congress, January, 1776, "upheld the cause of the Colonies with a spirit of lofty patriotism," signed the Declaration of Independence, commanded 14 Connecticut regiments in defense of New York. In 1777 he raised several thousand recruits and re-enforced General Putnam on the Hudson, joined General Gates and took an active part at the time of Burgoyne's surrender, returned to Congress in 1778 and again in 1780 for four years, was chosen lieutenant-governor in 1786 and governor in 1796. He died in office December 1, 1797.

The full report of the committee which had been authorized three years before to divide the land in Colebrook was received at a meeting of the proprietors July 16, 1760, at the First Society's meeting house in Windsor. Capt. Peletiah Mills was moderator. The report which was ratified and confirmed and put on the public record was signed by five members of the committee: Cpts. Mills and Phelps, Messrs. Rockwell, Ephraim Wolcott and Filley, who declared that in pursuance of the instructions they had proceeded in laying out the township, as directed. The amount of the taxable property in Windsor on which the divisions were based was 3,989 pounds, four shillings and three pence and the quantity of land in Colebrook was believed at that time to be 18,199 acres, or about four and three-fourths acres, gross, to the pound.

The committee made the first division as directed, beginning at the southwest corner, measuring sixty chains (three-fourths of a mile) and north nineteen degrees east, in the first or westerly tier to the Massachusetts line, allowing approximately one acre to the pound on the list. Number 52 was the northerly lot in the first tier. They then turned south in the second tier, 240 rods wide as in the first, leaving a strip of land ten rods wide between the tiers for a highway, and thus continued alternating down and up dividing the eight tiers. The allotments in the first division of seventy-nine pieces disposed of about one and two-thirds tiers. The second division, two acres to the pound, extended through to a little less than one third of the sixth tier from the north boundary and the third division, one and one-quarter acres to the pound, extended through to nearly five-sixths of the eighth tier from the north boundary. On account of the location and quality of the land, some not being equally as good as the land in general the committee made thirteen additions to the allotments of thirteen persons in the third division in the eighth tier, which left a lot containing only about sixty acres in the southeast corner of the township adjoining Hartland, Barkhamsted and Winchester.

CHAPTER VI

*The Original Proprietors, 1720; Proprietors to Whom
Land was Allotted, 1760*

Following is a list of the original Windsor proprietors of Colebrook given in the order in which the names were drawn, the respective amounts of their tax lists in 1720 and opposite these the names of the proprietors who shared in the division of the land in 1760 and the width in the tiers in chains (sixty-six feet) and links (7.92 inches) set off to each in the first division:

| Original Prop., 1720 | £ S. P. | Proprietors, 1760 | Chains | Links |
|--------------------------|---------|--|--------|-------|
| 1. John Palmer | 60 | John Palmer, I. Pinney .. | 11 | 50 |
| 2. Anthony Hoskins | 31 | Josiah Coe, I. Burret | 5 | 43 |
| 3. John Bartlett | 23 | John Bartlett's heirs | 3 | 75 |
| 4. Thomas Hoskins | 32 | Samuel Whittelsy | | 33 |
| 5. Theophilus Cook | 37 | Thomas Clap | 6 | 50 |
| 6. Jonathan Bliss | 48 10 | Ebenezer Bliss | 3 | |
| 7. Daniel Gillette | 28 | Samuel Hall | 5 | |
| 8. Solomon Cook | 21 | Thomas Clap | 3 | 75 |
| 9. Joseph Gaylord | 44 10 | Joseph Gaylord | 7 | 50 |
| 10. Peter Brown | 83 3 | Peter Brown's heirs | 14 | |
| 11. Stephen Palmer | 39 14 | Benjamin Palmer | 7 | |
| 12. Jacob Munsell | 18 | Isaac Sheldon | 3 | 20 |
| 13. Sarah Pinney | 22 | Noah Pinney | 4 | |
| 14. Thomas Griswold | 113 | Phineas Griswold heirs and Isaac Pinney | | 20 |

Laid out a highway four rods wide.

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|---|----|----|
| 15. Phineas Drake | 1 17 6 | Phineas Drake | 33 | |
| 16. David Loomis | 78 8 | A. Loomis, S. Haydon | 12 | 18 |
| 17. Job Drake | 111 1 | R. Wolcott, E. Newberry | 19 | 56 |
| 18. Nathaniel Griswold .. | 2 | Samuel Whittelsy | 8 | 10 |
| 19. Joseph Rockwell | 107 2 | J. Rockwell, Sr., heirs | 18 | 84 |
| 20. Jonathan Filley | 92 14 | Jon. and Nath. Filley | 16 | 50 |
| 21. Daniel Loomis, Jr. .. | 56 16 | Silas White's heirs | 10 | |
| 22. Thomas Bissell, Jr. | 10 | John, Jabez Kingsberry .. | 1 | 75 |
| 23. Christopher Wolcott | 21 | James Ham | 4 | 2 |
| 24. Benjamin Loomis, Sr. | 34 15 | Joseph Bigelow | 7 | |
| 25. Jeremiah Drake | 34 5 | John Bartlett's heirs | 10 | |
| 26. John Osborn | 82 | Thom. Clap, Joseph Coe, Israel Barrett | 16 | 50 |
| 27. William Moore | 1 5 | Josiah Phelps, 2nd | | 43 |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------------------------|-------|
| 28. Henry Wolcott | 103 16 | Josiah Phelps, 2nd | 20 50 |
| 29. Thomas Egleston | 71 5 | Thomas Egleston's heirs | 14 29 |
| 30. Eliz. Kelsey's heirs .. | 13 | Elizabeth Kelsey's heirs | 2 63 |
| 31. John Hoskins, Sr. .. | 101 15 | John Hoskins | 18 25 |
| 32. Mary Rowell | 18 10 | Stephen Chubb | 3 50 |

Laid out a highway four rods wide

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|---|-------|
| 33. John Rockwell | 75 16 6 | Roger Wolcott and Eliza- beth Newberry | 15 50 |
| 34. Capt. Samuel Mather | 25 12 3 | Samuel Mather's heirs .. | 5 |
| 35. Job Phelps | 24 | Thomas Clap | 10 |
| 36. Richard Skinner | 52 11 | Thomas Clap | 8 |
| 37. Josiah Owen | 43 3 | Samuel Hall | 5 54 |
| 38. Joseph Loomis | 49 1 | Daniel Phelps | 3 60 |
| Surveyed a lot to | | Josiah Phelps, 2nd | 6 |
| 39. Jeremiah Alford | 28 | Isaac Sheldon's heirs | 5 |
| 40. Sarah Moore | 26 | Hannah Newberry's heirs | 10 |
| 41. Richard Smith | 49 10 | Mary, wife of Samuel | |
| 42 & 43. Abraham | | Stiles | 12 50 |
| Phelps, Jr. | 67 15 | Peter Mills | 7 75 |
| 44. Nathaniel Porter | 40 7 | Isaac Sheldon's heirs | 9 50 |
| 45. John Porter | 48 15 | Josiah Phelps, 2nd, & | |
| 46. Daniel Porter | 21 | Daniel Porter's heirs | 4 25 |
| | | Samuel Whitelsy | 6 |
| 47. Eleazer Hill, Jr. | 30 10 | Josiah Allyn's heirs | 6 25 |
| 48. Josiah Allyn | 30 17 6 | John Bartlett's heirs | 8 |
| 49. John Phelps, Jr., | 41 10 | Aaron Bissell & John & | |
| 50. Thomas Bissell, Sr. .. | 57 15 | Jabez Kingsberry | 11 25 |
| | | Thomas Clap | 8 50 |
| 51. Jeremiah Bissell | 45 10 | Nathaniel Hosford heirs | |
| 52. Nathaniel Hosford .. | 82 10 | & Daniel Phelps | 1 50 |

Then turned east 10 degrees, 15 minutes, two chains and 50 links for a 10 rods highway between the first and second tiers, then east 10' 15' south, for the second tier.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------|--|-------|
| 52. (continued) | | Nathaniel Hosford's heirs | |
| Nathaniel Hosford | | & Daniel Phelps | 8 75 |
| 53. Thomas Elsworth..... | 143 13 | Sarah Gridley, Mary Bid- well & Deborah Blod- gett | 23 50 |
| 54. Thomas Allyn | 22 | Josiah Phelps, 2nd | 3 50 |
| 55. Aaron Loomis | 33 10 | Aaron Loomis | 5 |
| 56. Capt. Abraham | | Hezekiah & Elizabeth | |
| Phelps | 66 10 | Pearpont | 11 77 |
| 57. Enoch Phelps | 34 | Azariah Pinney | 6 |
| 58. Thomas Skinner | 68 15 | Thomas Skinner | 12 |
| 59. Thomas Crow | 27 | Benjamin Palmer | 4 75 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|------|--|-------|
| 60. Thomas Gillet | 21 | Jacob Stronge | 3 25 |
| 61. John Moore | 99 | Joseph Demock & Thom- as Finney | 18 |
| 62. Joseph Rockwell, Jr. | 47 | Joseph Rockwell, Jr. | 8 50 |
| 63. Samuel Eno | 31 2 | Josiah Phelps, 2nd | 5 50 |
| 64. Nathaniel Loomis, Jr. | 65 | Isaac Sheldon's heirs ... | 11 37 |

Laid out a highway four rods wide

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 65. William Wolcott | 81 9 | William & Ephraim Wol- cott | 14 50 |
| 66. Charles Wolcott | 119 | Josiah Phelps, 2nd | 21 |
| 67. Jonathan Pinney ... | 26 5 | Josiah Phelps, 2nd | 4 63 |
| 68. Peter Mills | 103 | Peletiah & John Mills ... | 21 |
| 69. James Loomis | 103 10 | Ichabod Lord | 15 |
| 70. Nathaniel Fitch | 33 5 | Heirs Isaac & Sarah Burr | 6 |
| 71. Abigail Stratton ... | 3 18 | Josiah Phelps, 2nd | 81 |
| 72. Nathaniel Bissell ... | 38 5 | Ann, wife of Josiah Allen | 6 38 |
| 73. Josiah Phelps, Jr. ... | 49 | Zacheus Griswold | 8 7 |
| 74. Obediah Owen | 55 | Samuel Whitley | 8 10 |

Within 20 links of north side of river.

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------|--|-------|
| 75. Josiah Phelps | 90 2 | Samuel Mather's heirs ... | 13 50 |
| 76. Job Drake | 41 18 | Job Drake's heirs | 7 56 |
| 77. Jacob Wells | 29 | Jacob Wells' heirs | 5 22 |
| 78. John Lewis | 19 | Thomas Clap | 4 22 |
| 79. John Taylor | 92 2 | Josiah Phelps, 2nd, and John Taylor's heirs.... | 17 50 |

Then began the second division two acres to the pound and after that the third division one and one-quarter acres to the pound.

In the second division three additional lots, about 58 acres, were laid out to Ephraim Wolcott a member of the committee, no doubt in recognition of his services in making the division.

Josiah Phelps, 2nd, the first named of the committee, became the largest land owner, having purchased several rights in addition to his inheritance. Ten lots were set out to him in each division and an additional lot in the eighth tier, a total of 31 lots, amounting to approximately 2,000 acres or about one-tenth of the township. Thomas Clap was the owner of 21 lots and had about 1,351 acres. One of his lots included the land in the Hemlock cemetery on the Still River turnpike. Hon. Roger Wolcott and his daughter, Elizabeth Newberry, owned six lots, aggregating more than 1,000 acres. The heirs of Joseph Rockwell, Sr., and Joseph Rockwell, Jr., had about

700 acres. The Rockwells acquired a much larger acreage soon afterward, some of which has remained in the ownership of the family to the present time.

The minister's lot, 660 by 3,960 feet, and the parsonage lot, 1,100 by 3,960 feet, were laid out between lots Nos. 51 and 52 in the fourth tier in the second division, east of Colebrook Center. Loon or Center brook enters the parsonage lot on the west end, turning in about the middle and running north through the minister's lot. The church lot and parade ground were laid out in the northeast corner of lot No. 53, second division, which was set off to Sarah Gridley, Mary Bidwell and Deborah Blodgett. It was 594 by 495 feet, two-fifths of a mile south of the parsonage lot, to which a four-rod highway was laid out running easterly from the No. 3 or Smith Hill road.

The school lot was laid out in Colebrook River in the third division, sixth tier, on both sides of the Farmington river above the new State bridge. Joseph Rockwell's heirs owned lot No. 19 in the first division on the west side of the town through which the North road, now the Norfolk road passed. It was acquired soon afterward by Governor Oliver Wolcott. The Rockwell heirs owned lot No. 19 in the second division, now the heart of Colebrook Center, occupied by the church, the stores and the Colebrook Inn. It was inherited by Captain Samuel Rockwell. Governor Roger Wolcott and daughter, Elizabeth Newberry, owned lot No. 17, second division, a large tract at the intersection of the North road and New Haven turnpike, also called the Waterbury turnpike, where Herbert L. Culver's farm is located and extending nearly to the Center.

Josiah Phelps, 2nd, owned a large acreage in North Colebrook, a part of which is still occupied by his descendants, Carrington and Carrington A. Phelps, and with John Taylor's heirs he owned that part of Colebrook River where Slocum brook and the Tolland road intersect the State highway, and also west of the river. The tract where the cotton mills were located was set off to the heirs of Job Drake, father-in-law of Governor Roger Wolcott. The lot next to the State line in Colebrook River was set off to Samuel Mather's heirs.

CHAPTER VII

The Old North Road; Historic Colonial Highway

At the meeting, July 16, 1760, when the proprietors' committee submitted its report of the division of land in Colebrook, a committee was appointed consisting of Captain Josiah Phelps, Ensign Nathaniel Filley, James Rockwell and Isaac Pinney "to make and clear the country road" laid out through Colebrook by order of an act of the General Assembly. This highway, first called the "North road," later the "Old North road" in contrast to the "South road" through Winchester Center, was the successor of the first road in this region about which little is known except that there had been a traveled road leading to the northwest part of the Colony for 40 years and possibly more, which may have followed an Indian trail. The Colonial Records state that at the May session in 1758, the General Assembly "being advised that the road or way now often traveled through the towns of Simsbury, New Hartford and Norfolk to and through the northwestern parts of Canaan, towards Albany, is in many respects ill-chosen and unfit for use, and that some new and better road through said towns, or some of them, or the towns adjacent, may probably be discovered more direct and convenient, as well for carriages as traveling, to the great accommodation and benefit of his Majesty's subjects, and especially in time of war, occasionally traveling or marching, either from the eastern or central parts of the Colony," therefore, "Resolved, that Colonel John Pitkin of Hartford, Seth Wetmore of Middletown, Mr. Wells of Glassenbury and Colonel David Whitney of Canaan, be appointed a committee, as soon as conveniently may be, to repair to and through said towns (and towns adjacent if need be), and with all care and diligence to view and observe said road now used; and also, with the utmost care to explore and find out how and where any shorter and better way, in whole or in part, may be practicable, and their full description thereof, with their opinion thereon, to make report to the Assembly at their session in October next."

It will be noted that no mention is made in the resolution of Barkhamsted, Winchester or Colebrook except by inference as adjacent towns, probably because there were no settlers in this part of the Green Woods country.

Hon. John Boyd in his *Annals of Winchester*, wrote: "Before the survey and allotment of Winchester land, (1758) set-

tlements in Goshen, Norfolk and Canaan had begun, rendering it necessary for settlers from the eastern towns to pass through our township to their homes. The Lawrences, and other settlers of Canaan, about 1738 to 1740, came from Windsor and Simsbury, first entered the wilderness by way of New Hartford, the northeast part of Winchester and southwest part of Colebrook, to the center of Norfolk. They left their families and stock at points along the way, where openings could be found for grazing, and went forward with their axes and cut down trees and cleared a trail from one opening to another, and then moved their caravan. Tradition says they made one of their halts on the Hoyt (Twining) farm in Colebrook, and went forward with their trail to a natural meadow at the northerly border of a small pond, a mile east of Norfolk center, where they found a dead loon, and hence the name by which the location is still known. They returned and brought their families and flocks to this oasis. From Loon Meadow they cleared their way to the foot of Hay Stack Mountain, and thence along Blackberry River, to the land of Canaan, which to them must have been a happy land indeed after the toils and privations of their journey."

The committee of the Assembly made its report at the May session in 1759. It was accepted and the same gentlemen were directed "to lay out and make plain and certain the said new country road from the mansion house of Samuel Humphrey in Simsbury (Canton) to Colonel David Whitney's in Canaan." A year later, May 1760, the Assembly ordered the way to be cleared and made passable for traveling before November, 1761, by the towns and proprietors of townships through which it passed, and if any failed to comply with the order a committee consisting of Capt. Daniel Lawrence, Jr., of Canaan, Martin Smith, Jr., of New Hartford, and Oliver Humphrey of Simsbury was empowered to take such measures, at the expense of the towns or proprietors, to assure its construction without fail before May 1, 1762.

The Colebrook proprietors received the order July 3, 1760, and took action within two weeks. "This thoroughfare," continued Mr. Boyd, "known to a former generation as 'The North Road,' and now almost a myth, had in its day an importance and renown which justifies our detailed history of its origin and progress. According to tradition it was a wonder of the age that a direct and practicable route could be found and opened through the jungles and over the succession of steep, rocky hills and mountains of the Green Woods, for travel, and the movement of troops and munitions between Hartford and Albany. It soon became and continued until 1800

the great and almost the sole thoroughfare of the Colony in the direction of Albany. Continental troops passed over it for frontier service. Detachments of Burgoyne's Army, as prisoners of war, marched over it to the quarters assigned them." Colonel Ethan Allen traveled over it while on military duty in the Revolutionary War. "It should not be inferred from the amount of travel that this road was an Appian Way," said Mr. Boyd. "On the contrary, direct as it was, it went up and down the highest hills, on uneven beds of rocks and stones, and passed marshy valleys on corduroy of the coarsest hemlock log structure." From New Hartford village the road turned westerly up the hill by "Burgoyne Heights," then northwesterly down across Morgan brook in Barkhamsted, over Wallen's hill and down into the Still River valley at Wilson's or Roberts' corner in Winchester, up Smith hill passing Rowley pond, turning westerly after crossing the Colebrook line near the old Rockwell or James O'Neil farms towards Norfolk.

Ten years later a part of the traffic was diverted at Satan's Kingdom, New Hartford, up the east side of the Farmington River to Riverton, thence to Robertsville and westerly, uniting with the "Old North Road" again at the O'Neil farm. This historic road is still open for travel over most of its course and is easily discernible on the U. S. Geological Survey maps and by stone monuments placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution. It has been greatly improved in recent years and is a popular drive again.

CHAPTER VIII

Proprietors' Meetings; Number 3 Road; First Saw Mill

At the July meeting in 1760, the proprietors' committee was instructed to view the undivided land in the southeast corner of the town to "know the quantity and quality" of it in order to sell it and raise money to pay the public charges of the town. At the next meeting, May 18, 1761, a special committee was appointed to advertise and sell at public auction about 60 acres in the southeast corner of the township to pay for clearing the North road laid out in Colebrook by "ye government's order." The sale was held on June 11, 1761, and the land bought by Jonathan Drake, of Windsor, whose bid was seven shillings, four pence per acre. He was given a deed September 18, 1761, of land nearly three-fourths of a mile long and 68 rods wide, bounded east on Hartland, south on Barkhamsted and west on a highway. This land contained valuable water rights on Still River including the power privilege at Tunxis Falls now owned by the Connecticut Light & Power Company, where its hydro-electric plant is located. It was the custom in the new towns to reserve the valuable water power privileges. The Colebrook proprietors sold this tract to pay its first Colony highway bill.

In November, 1761, a committee consisting of Capt. Josiah Phelps, James Rockwell and Erastus Wolcott, who was moderator of the meeting, was appointed to lay out a new highway or highways in Colebrook as they should judge most convenient and needful for the proprietors and for traveling and if need be exchange roads already laid out in the town for other highways. In January, 1762, it was voted to raise 30 pounds by tax in proportion to the list according to which the lots were laid out. The sale of the land in Robertsville to Mr. Drake was reported at this meeting. The collection of a tax was no easy matter in those days for at the next meeting, October 7, 1763, it was voted to apply to the General Assembly at the next session in New Haven for authority to sell so much of the land of proprietors who refuse and neglect to pay their tax, to pay their tax bills and charges for selling the land. Josiah Bissell, Esq., was appointed agent for that purpose. It was voted to raise 50 pounds by tax to pay the charges for laying out and clearing the roads in Colebrook. Capt. Phelps and Isaac Pinney were appointed the road committee.

At a meeting on February 20, 1764, the proprietors were much disturbed over the charge of the committee appointed by

the General Assembly for clearing the North road through Colebrook, and voted not to accept the bill. On the following April 9th, a committee consisting of William and Erastus Wolcott, Josiah Bissell, Josiah Phelps and Nathaniel Filley was named to look into the accounts of the General Assembly committee, Messrs. Lawrence, Smith and Humphrey, who were appointed to take charge of building the North road, and if the Colebrook committee considered the demand unreasonable it was authorized to join with the Barkhamsted committee and prefer a memorial to the General Assembly to have the accounts and the awards against the two towns adjusted according to justice and equity and pray that a more indifferent committee be appointed with new instructions to take care of making the highway.

On September 18, 1764, a committee of seven among whom was Samuel Rockwell, here first mentioned in the records and destined to be a leader in Colebrook for 30 years, was appointed "to run an mark" the north line of Colebrook and report at the next meeting whether there was any common land in said Colebrook and how much remained undivided. Erastus Wolcott, Josiah Phelps and Nathaniel Filley were appointed to lay out all necessary roads in the town and exchange common lands or unnecessary roads. It was voted that the lots in the several divisions shall lie parallel with the line betwixt the towns of Colebrook and Winchester. At a meeting October 7, 1765, William Wolcott, Esq., was appointed agent to apply to the General Assembly to establish the layout of the highway in Colebrook "called No. 3 road," beginning at the north side of "the Government's road that leads to Canaan," about 20 rods west of the east end of the third tier of lots. This highway became a section of the post road later known as the New Haven or Waterbury turnpike leading from Herbert L. Culver's farm through Colebrook Center and North Colebrook turning right at Phelps' tavern to the Massachusetts line. It was approved by the Assembly in May, 1767, and the survey recorded June 16, 1767, by Josiah Wolcott, clerk.

At the same meeting in October, 1765, it was voted to grant Erastus Wolcott, Esq., land to the value of 17 pounds as an encouragement to set up a saw mill on condition that he "set up and erect a good saw mill in said Colebrook by the 15th of May next." It is probable the mill was erected on his land near Colebrook Center.

It must have proved a "good" saw mill for January, 1767, a vote was passed to grant to Mr. Wolcott 60 acres of land on the north end of the eighth tier (northeast corner of the town) as a recompense for building a saw mill.

CHAPTER IX

Early Settlers; Benjamin Horton; Capt. Joseph Rockwell

Benjamin Francis Horton of Springfield, Mass., had the distinction of being the first settler in Colebrook. It was four years after the North road had been ordered to be completed by the General Assembly that Mr. Horton removed to Colebrook in the rigorous month of December, 1765. He built a house on the hill on the north side of the newly constructed Colony highway about 40 rods east of the Hoyt or Twining farm house. One has only to spend a winter or two on any of the back roads in this section of New England to appreciate some of the hardships with which the pioneer settlers of Colebrook had to contend, battling with the wintry blasts and frequent snow storms, sometimes with drifts covering the highways from five to 10 feet deep and piling up against the houses and barns half way to the eaves.

Mr. Horton's son, Gideon, who came two years afterwards, lived about 30 rods north of his father and removed later to Vermont near Rutland. It is recorded that Benjamin Horton and wife died in Colebrook.

The growth of Colebrook in the first decade of its settlement was slow, which is not surprising because of the nature of the land and the obstacles to be overcome in the building of homesteads and in earning a livelihood. It was pioneer work of the hardest kind with roads to build, land to clear, shelter to be made for men and beasts, fuel to cut and food and raiment to be provided for the members of the family—a real man's job. There were 39 families who settled in Colebrook in the first 10 years, before the commencement of the Revolutionary War, comprising a population of 150. One family came in 1765, three in 1766, two in 1768, five in 1769, five in 1770, 14 in 1771, three in 1772, three in 1773 and one in 1774.

The war had its effect upon the growth of the town for at the end of the next eight years with the losses by death and removals there were only 48 families and a population of 273. Following is a list of the heads of the families who removed to Colebrook in the first decade and the year they came:

1765—Benjamin Horton and wife.

1766—Joseph Rockwell, Joseph Seymour, Nathan Bass.

1767—Samuel Rockwell, Gideon Horton.

1768—Francis Griswold, Aaron Griswold.

1769—Samuel Mills, Moses Wright, Hezekiah Simons, William Simons, David Rockwell.

1770—David Viets, Samuel Phillips, John Porter, David Ogden, Ebenezer Shepard.

1771—Joseph Bidwell, Eleazar Bidwell, Daniel Hall, David Goodhue, Joseph Langworthy, Joseph Taintor, Daniel and David Hoskins, William Denison, John and James Mead, John Seymour, Dr. Asa Hillyer. James Hillyer.

1772—Henry White, David Pinney, Thomas Feax.

1773—Peletiah Mills, Andrew Buckingham, Stephen Russell.

1774—Aaron Simons.

Reuben Rockwell, Sr., one of Capt. Samuel Rockwell's sons, tells most interestingly in a manuscript that he prepared many years later which was handed down to his son, Reuben Rockwell, Esq., and is still preserved, some of the difficulties with which these early settlers had to contend. He wrote: "As the inhabitants were not experienced in the most approved mode of clearing lands and bringing them into cultivation, and generally poor, and the whole town one entire forest covered with heavy timber, its transformation into fruitful fields and well cultivated farms, was slow and protracted, though a few individuals who had property at command advanced the clearing and improvement of their lands with considerable activity. The usual mode of clearing land was to girdle the timber, and on the third year after girdling to clear off the fallen timber, sow it to rye, and seed it with herd grass and white clover. The average crop when well burned over was 20 to 25 bushels per acre. The land when thus partially cleared produced good pasturage, and, when moist, good crops of grass for mowing for seven or eight years. When the remaining timber, being principally fallen trees and brier, and other bushes, began to overspread the land, it became necessary to clear and fallow it. When this was well performed, good crops of wheat and rye were produced. New land also produced good oats, potatoes and turnips, but Indian corn did not usually succeed and was not a profitable crop. Though peach trees flourished, and in favorable situations soon came to maturity, apple and other fruit trees did not succeed but generally appeared stunted and slow in their growth."

Among the most prominent of the early settlers of Colebrook was the Rockwell family, just as it had been among the most prominent of the settlers of Windsor for four generations covering more than a century and a quarter from the time Deacon William Rockwell, the immigrant ancestor, came to America in the "Mary and John" in 1630 and removed seven years later from Dorchester, Mass., to the Connecticut valley. The deacon's grandson, "Sarjant" Joseph Rockwell, Sr., and the latter's son, Joseph Rockwell, Jr., became original propri-

etors of Colebrook when the town was allotted to Windsor in 1732. Sergt. Rockwell, who married Elizabeth Drake, daughter of Job Drake, another Colebrook proprietor, died in 1733. His third son, James Rockwell, who served in Capt. Ebenezer Grant's Company in 1745 in King George's war in the "expedition into ye frontiers," was a member of the committee to establish the bounds of Colebrook and lay out a highway through the center of the town. He was also a member of the committee to divide the township.

Joseph Rockwell, Jr., elder brother of James, died in 1746 leaving a large estate. He bequeathed his Colebrook lands to his three sons, Joseph, Jonathan and Samuel. Two of these sons, Captain Joseph who was appointed to collect the first tax levied by the proprietors in 1756 and his younger brother, Capt. Samuel Rockwell, were pioneer settlers in Colebrook.

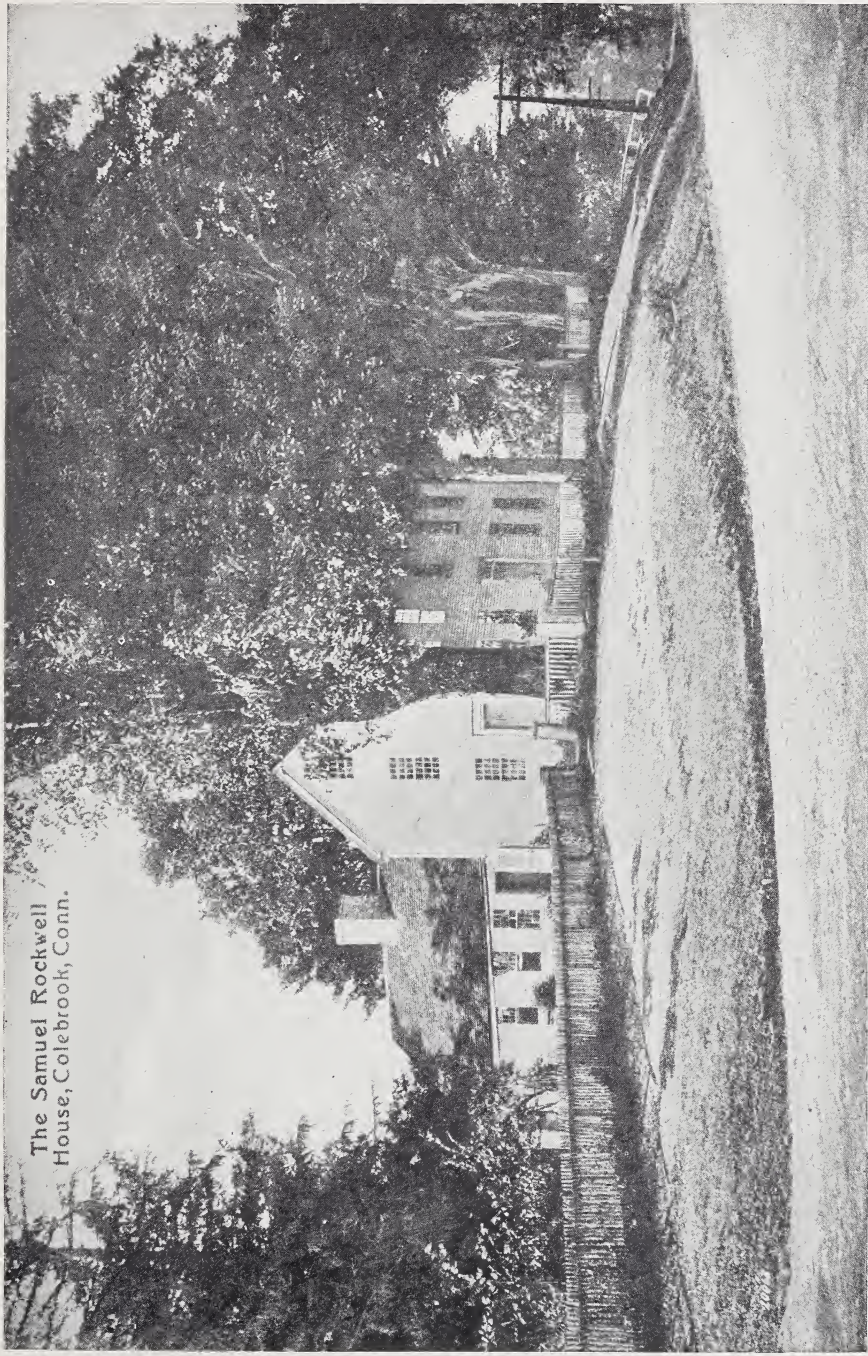
Benjamin Horton had been living in Colebrook only a month or less when Capt. Joseph Rockwell, the second settler, and family arrived from Windsor, January 16, 1766. The Captain had built a house on the east side of the North road about a mile and a half east of Mr. Horton's on the first rise of the hill above Rowley pond near the Winchester town line. The house stood about 10 rods southeast and across the road from the place long known as the Rufus Holmes or James O'Neil farm. The residences of Benjamin Horton and Capt. Joseph Rockwell were the only houses on this road between New Hartford and Norfolk, a distance of about 18 miles.

Captain Joseph Rockwell, who was born at East Windsor March 15, 1715 or 1716, married Anna Dodd. They had seven children and when they moved to Colebrook three of them, Anna, John and Elijah, were of age, Elijah having just attained his 21st birthday on November 14. The father was commissioned captain, October 14, 1774, and was at the head of the Colebrook militia until his death July 12, 1776, aged 60.

Joseph Seymour from Windsor became the third settler in Colebrook. He built a house on the bank of Sandy Brook on the No. 3 or Sandisfield road about four miles north of Capt. Joseph Rockwell's and moved there in February or March, 1766. The house stood about 165 feet south of the Gen. Edward Phelps or Carrington Phelps homestead.

Capt. Joseph Rockwell's daughter, Anna, married Nathan Bass of East Windsor, and they moved to Colebrook in April or May, 1766, he being mentioned as the fourth settler. They lived on the farm about a mile northwest of his father-in-law on the southerly side of the North road on or near the farm later occupied by his son, Nathan Bass, Esq., afterwards known as the Eugene Marvin place.

The Samuel Rockwell
House, Colebrook, Conn.



Captain Samuel Rockwell House, built in 1767 (now owned by Mrs. Harriet Emerson Hinchliff)

CHAPTER X

Captain Samuel Rockwell, Town Leader

Captain Samuel Rockwell, Esq., the head of the other branch of the Rockwell family who inherited land in Colebrook, younger brother of Capt. Joseph Rockwell, was the fifth settler and the most vigorous of them all, becoming the leader of the town during the period of its organization and continuing so through his life. His descendants in the fourth and fifth generations are among the largest property owners in Colebrook today (1935). Samuel Rockwell was born in East Windsor January 19, 1729, the seventh and youngest child of Joseph Rockwell, Jr., who died when he was 17 years of age. In 1757, Samuel married Hepzibah Pratt who is spoken of as "a practical mother," a descendant of John Pratt, one of the original members of Rev. Thomas Hooker's Cambridge church and one of the early settlers of Hartford. Samuel had a fine farm of 30 acres in East Windsor where he tilled the soil and began rearing his family. In 1764, he was a member of the committee which surveyed the northern line of Colebrook and in February, 1766, one of the committee of five appointed to run the boundary line between Colebrook and Norfolk, the others being Erastus Wolcott, Esq., Capt. Josiah Phelps, James Rockwell and Peletiah Mills.

A year later, in February, 1767, Samuel Rockwell, "the sturdy pioneer," with his wife and four sons, Samuel, Jr., eight, Timothy, "not quite seven," Solomon "barely three," and Reuben "in his mother's arms," moved to Colebrook where he had a tract of 100 acres of wild land which he had begun to clear and where he built a house on the No. 3 or Sandisfield road, now the oldest house in the town. This house was for nearly 30 years the principal meeting place for conducting the business of the town and church and for holding social events. With the mother and babe riding on horseback, they brought an ox-cart load of house furnishings, including a desk, chest of drawers, several Windsor chairs, etc., some of which are still in the possession of the family. The house, the frame of which he had already put up, was two miles north of his brother, Joseph's, and the family staved with his brother, Joseph, and niece, Anna Bass, while Samuel hauled the rest of the lumber from the saw mill and finished his house. It is a one story structure with a large chimney in the center. There is a large attic room where the meetings and social gatherings were held.

The house was greatly enlarged in 1793 by building on a two-story addition on the front side that was formerly the rear of the house. It is one of the fine colonial homes of Colebrook and is owned by the captain's great-granddaughter, Mrs. W. E. Hinchliff.

September 21, 1767, seven months after Samuel and his wife arrived in Colebrook, their sixth son was born (their third having died in infancy) and was named Alpha, because he was the first child born in the town. The next month at a proprietors' meeting in Windsor it was voted to exchange town land originally left for a 10-rod highway for land given by Mr. Rockwell for the Sandisfield road running by the westerly side of his house.

Samuel Rockwell is spoken of as one of the fathers of the town, "much employed in managing its concerns, and was ever zealous to promote its welfare. He was thorough and efficient in supporting schools and in educating his children and was a firm and decided friend of the liberties of his country. In his prime he was a man of great physical strength and had a remarkable faculty of stimulating and directing men in accomplishing objects requiring united effort." He was a selectman eight years in the decade, 1780-1790. Samuel Rockwell died September 7, 1794, and his son, Timothy, a month before.

Francis Griswold, the seventh settler of Colebrook, moved into town in 1768 and became a neighbor of Capt. Joseph Rockwell, living on the northerly side of the North road and about a half mile west of the Captain. Aaron Griswold, who came the same year, lived a few rods northwest from the Captain's in the forks of the roads, known as the Lucius Holmes, now the Speer place. Aaron Griswold removed to Johnstown, N. Y., in 1784.

In January, 1767, a committee was appointed by the proprietors to lease the land laid out to James Ham in order to pay his taxes; also to lease so much of the proprietors' land not yet laid out, as was necessary to pay for repairing the roads. The committee leased to John Rockwell of Colebrook, on May 21, 1767, for 500 years, 19 acres of land owned by Mr. Ham for nine pounds. Mr. Rockwell being the highest bidder. This land included the lot occupied by the Rockwell tannery in South Colebrook now owned by the Brookside Farm Club.

In October of the same year it was voted to raise 60 pounds by tax to repair the "Norfolk road" (North Road) and No. 3 road through Colebrook Center and to exchange land reserved for a highway with Erastus Wolcott and Samuel Rockwell for land in the layout of the latter road at the Center. The proprietors at a meeting in January, 1769, appointed a committee

to survey and lay out of proprietors' lands in Colebrook left for roads "a meet recompense" to owners of lots that had lost land by the laying out of the Norfolk and No. 3 roads across their lands, also to lay out a suitable piece of land in Colebrook for a burying place.

March 8, 1770, it was voted to sell common or undivided land to raise 50 pounds to repair the highways and pay the proprietors' debts. A tax of a half penny on the acre was voted in June, 1774, for the same purposes. In November, 1778, Pel-etiah Mills, Esq., of Windsor, and John Rockwell of Colebrook were added to the highway committee to lay out new highways and "make satisfaction for damages done" in laying out the roads. A tax of two pence and half penny to the acre was voted. At an adjourned meeting on February 5, 1779, held at the house of John Filley, inn holder, in Windsor, an additional tax for the same amount was voted. Capt. Josiah Phelps was added to a committee to adjust the accounts of the proprietors. Later in the month, Colonel Roger Newberry, Capt. Samuel Rockwell and John Rockwell were appointed to take care of the highways and common and undivided lands in Colebrook and to institute a suit or suits against any person or persons that had or might trespass thereon and to settle and adjust any trespasses and to receive such satisfaction as they should think just and reasonable.

At a proprietors' meeting held at John Filley's inn at Windsor in June, 1779, four months before the town of Colebrook was incorporated, the committee, Samuel Rockwell, Isaac Pinney and Josiah Phelps, filed its report of the land reserved for highways that it had laid out to those persons who had had highways laid out through their lands. There were 36 of these adjustments recorded. The next proprietors' meeting was not held for over seven years. It was held October 24, 1786, in the dwelling house of Capt. Samuel Rockwell and was the first to be held in Colebrook.

CHAPTER XI

Revolutionary War; Robertsville Forge; Richard Smith

While Colebrook was not organized until the Revolutionary War was half over and the scenes of battle were far removed from this section, the town contributed largely, in proportion to its population, to the success of the American arms in the heroic struggle for the independence of the Colonies. Indeed, its contribution in the young manhood of its citizens as well as in supplies and materials was a heavy one, for the god of war stalked into some of the homes of this rural hill town and claimed the heads of the households as the price of liberty. Of the citizens of Colebrook and those who were later to become citizens the names of more than half a hundred who had an important part in the American Revolution have been preserved to us, and it is not unlikely that there were others for the records in many instances are incomplete.

Two factors explain how Colebrook came to play an important part in furnishing munitions of war for the American Revolution, thereby materially helping the Colonies to win their independence. The forests provided wood for making charcoal and the streams furnished splendid water power, both essential in operating an iron forge.

Still River flowing lazily in a northerly direction from the town of Torrington across the easterly side of Winchester where it is joined by Mad River, enters the southeast corner of Colebrook at Robertsville where, by a series of cascades, it dashes down through a picturesque gorge, and unites with Sandy Brook. At the confluence of these streams, which flow in nearly opposite directions and come together to join the Farmington river a mile and a quarter below, is the foundation of an old iron forge marking one of the notable historic spots in the State connected with the Revolutionary War. This old forge which is remembered principally because the school district in that part of Colebrook bears the name of Forge district, was erected about 1770—five years after the arrival of the first settler and five years before the Lexington alarm—by Richard Smith, a Boston merchant, shipbuilder, iron prince and historic figure in Connecticut, who by an unexpected turn in his affairs was unable to operate his large iron interests in this State during the war but whose holdings contributed very largely to the success in winning America's independence.

How Highland lake, Winsted's popular summer resort, entered into the program and the part the Colebrook iron works had in turning out munitions of war and iron for shipbuilding, anchors, chains and a thousand other uses is an interesting story, but even more interesting is the life story of Mr. Smith himself, who was the cause of the first Governor Trumbull of Connecticut—Washington's "Brother Jonathan"—being maligned by a false charge of bribery from which he was quickly exonerated.

The iron industry in northwestern Connecticut began by the opening of the first of three iron mines in Salisbury on the eastern slope of the Taconic mountains, forming the western boundary of the Litchfield Hills, in 1730 or '31. One of these, the Davis mine, was owned by Thomas Lamb, who built the first forge in the State before 1734 at Lime Rock. He also owned the outlet of Furnace Pond, now the beautiful Lake Wononscopomuc, "Smile of the Great Spirit," in Lakeville, which he sold in 1748 and where a small forge was erected by the purchasers. Fourteen years later it was bought by Col. John Hazeltine of Massachusetts, Ethan Allen, afterwards the hero of Ticonderoga, Samuel and Elisha Forbes, the iron men of Canaan, who erected at Lakeville the first blast furnace in the State. In 1768 the property was sold by Caldwell Brothers to Richard Smith, the Boston merchant.

There was a Richard Smith of Windsor, one of the original proprietors of Colebrook whose rights in 1760 were allotted to Hannah Newberry's heirs, and the Boston merchant may have been a son. At any rate he was familiar with this section and especially the water privileges for within two years after the purchase of the Lakeville property he built his first refining forge in Colebrook. He had originated the process of making a very high quality of refined iron from pig metal instead of from the ore. It is suggested that he chose the Colebrook site in the wilderness, twenty-five miles over a rough, hilly road from the Salisbury mine and his Lakeville furnace, because it was in a wooded section and he feared there would be a shortage in the supply of charcoal around Salisbury and because the river at Robertsville with Highland lake back of it offered steady power. Furthermore, Colebrook was on the route from Salisbury to Boston. Instead of hauling the ore he could save considerable by carting the pigs to his Colebrook refinery in saddlebags or ox carts. That Mr. Smith appreciated the value of having a steady stream of water the year around is shown by the fact that in June, 1771, the Hartford proprietors of Winchester granted to Mr. Smith the right "to draw off or lower the Long Pond (Highland Lake) in Winchester one and a half feet for the benefit of his iron works during the pleas-

ure of proprietors." During that year David Austin, the Winsted pioneer, bought the land at the outlet of the lake, built a grist mill and saw mill and in cooperation with Mr. Smith lowered the channel at the lake and erected a log dam and bulkhead, thereby raising this three-mile reservoir four feet and securing a great body of water six feet in depth to draw from, which by careful control increased the working power at the Colebrook forge three-fold.

At the May session of the General Assembly in 1772, Mr. Smith took another important step in presenting a petition praying that a new highway be laid out to accommodate the public in general and his iron works in particular. The proposed highway departing from the Old North Road (the main highway from Hartford to Albany which had been built ten years before) at Satan's Kingdom, New Hartford, was to run along the east side of the Farmington river across the town of Barkhamsted to its confluence with Sandy brook at River-ton, thence on the easterly side of that stream to his iron works, thence westerly over the mountain joining the Old North Road again on the hill north of Rowley Pond.

The General Assembly took action upon Mr. Smith's petition at once, appointing a committee, consisting of Elizur Talcott, William Wells and Daniel Skinner, to make an investigation and, if they found such a road was necessary, to proceed to lay it out. Major Erastus Wolcott, a brother of Oliver Wolcott, the future signer of the Declaration of Independence, notified all the parties concerned, and the committee came out to New Hartford, June 2, 1772, heard the interested parties, viewed the layout of the proposed road and decided that in their opinion there was a need for it. They proceeded to lay out the highway as suggested by Mr. Smith, going by the "Indian place" (People's Forest) in Barkhamsted. That section east of the river afterwards became a part of the old Farmington river turnpike.

Mr. Smith conducted his iron industry in Salisbury and Colebrook until the outbreak of the Revolution. It is stated by many historians that he was a Loyalist or Tory, that he abandoned his valuable property in Connecticut, went to England and never came back. This is not true as will soon be seen.

In 1776 the Salisbury property was taken into possession by the State. During a part of the period of the war it was under the superintendency of Colonel Joshua Porter and was employed in the manufacture of mortars, cannon from three to eighteen pounders, swivels, shot, hand grenades, camp kettles and other utensils used extensively by the army and navy. For some time it was under the supervision of Gouverneur

Morris who in 1787 helped to frame the Constitution of the United States, was confidential agent of Washington in England and minister to France, and John Jay, a member of the Continental Congress, and first Chief Justice of the United States, who in 1794 concluded the treaty with Great Britain known as Jay's treaty.

Jacob Ogden, from New Jersey, who became a prominent citizen of Colebrook, was employed by Mr. Smith to operate the forge in Robertsville from 1770 until Mr. Smith left America. After this Mr. Ogden conducted it on his own account and received the profits. During the war he turned out large quantities of iron of a high quality, which was of great use to the country.

September, 1780, Mr. Ogden gave a receipt to Colonel Roger Newberry for thirty-seven pounds, sixteen shillings and four pence in Connecticut new money, in full for ten hundred pounds of bloomed iron for the use of the new gaol at Newgate.

In November, 1780, a bill was passed by the General Assembly empowering and directing the Governor with the advice of his Council of Safety to lease out for the term of one year the refinery and land at Colebrook belonging to Richard Smith and to call Mr. Ogden to account for his profit, use and improvement of said works and to take measures to have the pig iron in Salisbury belonging to the State refined at said works. The resolution passed the Senate and the House adopted it, after adding at the end of the bill these words, "if they shall judge it most wise and beneficial for the State," which action was concurred in by the Senate.

In May, 1781, John Chenevard rendered a bill to the State for one pound and sixteen shillings for three days examining the account of Mr. Ogden and making a report thereon per order of the Governor. On June 14, 1781, Governor Trumbull issued an order to the committee of Pay and Table to draw on Mr. Whiting, manager and hirer of the furnace at Salisbury, to deliver to Mr. Ralph Pomeroy, deputy quarter master of Connecticut, ten tons of pig iron, to be delivered by him to Mr. Jacob Ogden at his refinery at Colebrook to be refined for the use of the State and to draw on Mr. Ogden to deliver to Mr. Pomeroy, D. Q. M., one ton of iron to be charged him in account to this State.

At the close of the war Jared Lane, an agent of Mr. Smith, took possession of the Colebrook forge and sold it to Joseph and Elisha Buell. It was operated successively by Jacob Ogden, Theodore Burr, Elisha Beeman and David Squire and was abandoned as an iron works by the last named before 1810.

The foundation is still standing and pieces of slag may be found there today. On January 13, 1783, Richard Smith, owner of the mine and furnaces in Salisbury and Colebrook, presented a memorial to the General Assembly of Connecticut, in which he recites his movements for nine years, and petitions that body to be admitted as a freeman to Connecticut so that he may become a resident of Salisbury and regain possession of his property. The petition was granted. Mr. Smith said in the memorial that previous to the commencement of the unhappy war he resided as a merchant in Boston and in 1774 contracted for and built a number of ships purposing at the time to embark for England early in 1775 to be present at the arrival of the ships and transact other necessary business previous to his return to America. The troubles commencing in the spring of 1775 prevented him from embarking until July when he left Boston on account of his private affairs and not in consequence of the war. On leaving Boston, he said he purposed returning in the fall of 1776, but his business required his going to St. Petersburg, and his return was postponed until the spring of 1777. He would have embarked then had not the sickness of Mrs. Smith, which continued for 18 months, engaged his first attention. In the summer of 1778 he determined to embark for America purposing to reside on his estate in Salisbury, a sentiment which he assured the Legislature was not created by any events of the war but which he had thought of in 1773 and 1774 in consequence of many invitations by people of first character for whom he had long had a great friendship. In presenting the memorial he asked for a personal hearing.

He declared in no instance during the war had he conducted himself "as may with justice and candor be termed unfriendly to the cause of America or of the interests of this State in particular." He said that he had secretly and with great hazard come into the State from New York in November expecting the General Assembly to be in session, but, finding it had adjourned, he waited upon the governor, who called a council, and he was happy in finding every gentleman present satisfied with his relation of his conduct during the war, and he was referred to the General Assembly as the only authority to grant his request. He declared he was happy to find the government had employed his large estate in Salisbury to valuable purposes to this and the United States. He made no claim for the improvement of the same, cheerfully resting that with the future justice and equity of the Assembly. If he was indulged in his request and proved himself the active member he wished to be in promoting the manufactures, commerce and best interests of the State he doubted not that

they would make him reasonable compensation. He said he had left New York without any intention of returning and with no obligation of secrecy or obedience to the British government, being willing to communicate any intelligence in his power which might be of service to this United States. In closing, he asked for liberty to reside in this State, to become one of its subjects, to bring in his family and effects and to be put into possession of his estate and enjoy all the privileges of a free man, being willing to give the same test and pledge of his allegiance and bear his portion of all the burdens as others.

On January 16, 1783, in a second memorial to the Assembly he offered to release all claim and demand on account of the profit derived to this State and the United States from the use of his interests in this State, and on January 21, in a third memorial he offered to make a loan of \$1,000 to the State to show good faith. The Senate passed a resolution admitting Mr. Smith with full right to enjoy and participate in the liberties and burdens of the State, to possess himself of his estate and bring his family and effects within the State to be landed at New London under the inspection of Capt. John Deshon, the said Richard Smith "give his test and pledge of his fidelity and allegiance to this State as a faithful member thereof as other members are required to do." The form of the bill was at first dissented to in the House but later was reconsidered and concurred in.

On January 31, 1783, information was laid before the Assembly by Thomas Seymour, Esquire, of Hartford, charging that Moses Seymour, keeper of public house in Hartford, was propagating a report that His Excellency, Governor Trumbull, had received a bribe of 100 guineas from Mr. Smith to use his influence in Mr. Smith's favor and gave his vote accordingly, which insinuation was declared to be false and scandalous and designed to injure the reputation of the Governor and destroy the honor and dignity of the Assembly. A resolution was passed that Moses Seymour be arrested and brought before the Assembly to answer to his false and contemptuous conduct. A warrant was given Deputy Sheriff Charles Kellogg, who brought Mr. Seymour before the Assembly. He acknowledged he had made the statements. He said he was old and infirm in memory. He had heard various opinions expressed in his hotel, but he was convinced there was no ground for his statement, and he implored forgiveness. His apology was acknowledged to be satisfactory, and he was released upon the payment of the costs.

In the spring of 1777 Daniel Alcox (later addressed as captain), Daniel Phelps and Gurdon Rockwell were all in

service at Peekskill, N. Y., serving under Col. Hooker and Seth Griswold under Col. Belden. Alcox and Griswold served six weeks, Gurdon Rockwell served from April 12 until 27, when he died. Dr. Samuel Rockwell and Allen Seymour each served under Col. Cook from August 26 to November 3. In the same year Titus Hart enlisted May 20 under Col. Herman Swift and served three years. John Phelps and Pettershall Wakefield each enlisted under Col. Durkee and served for three years. Jesse Taylor enlisted in February under Col. Wyllys and served for four years in New York and New Jersey and Obed Williams was in Smith's Company in the 8th Regiment, Continentals, and served three years from May 28, being at Germantown Valley Forge and Monmouth. He was a Revolutionary War pensioner. John Tyler under Col. Prior served from May 27 to January 9, 1778, at Peekskill and Germantown.

In 1778, Deacon Samuel Cowles served as waggoner from April 22 to August 7. John Phelps was at Newport, R. I., under Col. Chapman. Joseph Seymour, Aaron Simons, a pensioner, and Joseph Simons all served under Col. Durkee, Seymour enlisting for a year, Aaron Simons two years and Joseph Simons from October 7 to January 1, 1779. There was a John Porter who served four or five different times from 1775 to 1779.

In 1780, Samuel Blakesley, a Colebrook pensioner, served from September 12 to December 5. Capt. Peter Corbin, Sr., who moved from Winchester to Colebrook in 1805, was captain of the First Company of the Alarm Regiment in 1780 and Peter Corbin, Jr., served in the 8th Connecticut Regiment from July 16 to December 3. He or his father also served in Capt. Hill's Company under General Putnam, as did also Preserved Crissey. In 1781 Peter Corbin, Jr., served for six months at West Point under Col. Canfield, and was special guard over Major Andre, the spy, who was executed.

Others who are mentioned as being in the Revolution that year and having connection with Colebrook were Philemon Kirkum, who served four or five years from Guilford; Noah Merrills; David Orvis, a pensioner in 1840, aged ninety-three, enlisted June 26 "for the war" under Gen. Butler and served two or three years; Elijah Pettibone served on the coast and frontier until March 17, 1781; Dr. Samuel Rockwell served again for a month at Guilford under Capt. Vaill. Ephraim White, a pensioner, served under Col. Swift from June 20 to December 31, and altogether three and one-half years. Eleazer Bidwell was a Revolutionary pensioner in 1840, aged eighty-eight. Reuben Hungerford, who bought a place of Moses

Wright, of Colebrook, opposite the Green Woods hotel, served three months in the war. He was the great-grandfather of George F. Drake, a prominent manufacturer of Winsted. The latter's mother was Marian Roberts of Colebrook. Enos Sage was a Revolutionary pensioner in 1832, having moved to Colebrook from Sandisfield. Roger Stillman, who served nine months from Massachusetts, was a pensioner of the war residing in Colebrook; also a Mr. Tinker, who had a wife, Mary.

Oliver Boardman of Middletown wrote in his journal as quoted in the Connecticut Quarterly: "I was one of fifty to guard 128 prisoners of war from Burgoyne's surrender to Hartford, October 20, 1777. Friday, October 24, we marched from Sheffield, Mass., to Rockwell's, about the middle of the Green Woods. Saturday we marched to Simsbury. Rockwell's was a tavern in Colebrook. The Green Woods road which extended from New Hartford to Norfolk passed about a half (one) mile south of the house. Samuel Rockwell & Sons had quite an extensive works for those days, a sawmill as well as a mill for grinding grain, a shop for the manufacture of agricultural implements and works for carding wool, together with a tavern."

CHAPTER XII

Colebrook Militia; Lexington Alarm. The Struggle for Independence

In 1774 the troops of Colebrook, Barkhamsted, New Hartford and Simsbury constituted the 18th Regiment of Connecticut Militia. The Colebrook proprietors had set off a parcel of land for a parade ground. In May, 1774, after the Boston Port Bill had been issued, the increasing hostilities of the British were viewed with alarm and consternation by the Colonists. Gov. Jonathan Trumbull issued a proclamation for a day of fasting and prayer. This was followed soon by an order to double the quantity of powder, balls and flints. On October 14, 1774, the veteran Joseph Rockwell, the second settler in the town, was commissioned captain of the Colebrook Militia and continued in command until his death, July 12, 1776, when he was succeeded by his younger brother, Samuel.

One may picture the little band of soldiers, fired with the spirit of resentment toward the acts of the Crown and of lofty patriotism, drilling under the command of their captain, two of whose sons were soon to go to war. Residing on the main highway leading from Hartford to the towns in northwestern Connecticut and Albany, Capt. Rockwell was one of the first to hear the news which was awaited with breathless anxiety. When the British marched on Lexington on that fateful morning of April 19, 1775, it is probable that couriers giving the alarm reached Colebrook by the second day thereafter. There were six Colebrook men who responded to the alarm and marched with the New Hartford Company of ninety men under Capt. Seth Smith: John Rockwell, Capt. Joseph's eldest son; his son-in-law, Nathan Bass; Francis Griswold, David Pinney, Ebenezer Shepard and William Simons. That they did not go far is shown by the fact that all of them were credited with only three days' travel. Five others who later were to become residents of Colebrook responded to the Lexington alarm, Sergt. Samuel Cowles, Elijah Pettibone and David Orvis, who went with the Norfolk Company; Epaphras Bidwell from Hartford, and Nathaniel Russell from Wethersfield.

In the spring of 1775, Governor Trumbull ordered 6,000 soldiers to be recruited in the Colony in six regiments for special defense and later added two more regiments. Five were ordered to the vicinity of Boston to maintain the siege

and another, under Col. Benjamin Hinman of Woodbury, recruited mostly in Litchfield County, was ordered to march as soon as possible to hold the forts at Ticonderoga and Crown Point. Ebenezer Shepard of Colebrook was in Capt. John Sedgwick's Company and went to the Northern frontier. He was discharged September 2. There were at least ten others who were later identified with Colebrook in the campaigns of 1775. Those who served in the vicinity of Boston were Joel Humphrey and his brother, Solomon, father of Heman Humphrey, president of Amherst College from 1823 to 1845; Lancelot Phelps, Ephraim White, John Phillips, John Porter, Elijah Marshall, who was transferred and went in Benedict Arnold's disastrous expedition to Quebec, John Phelps, who was transferred to Ticonderoga, and John Thomas, who went to Harlem and then to the Northern frontier.

In the fall of 1775, preparations were begun for the great struggle between the two armies which it was then realized was to come in 1776. Three Connecticut regiments were ordered to Boston to hold the lines. William Simons of Colebrook and Nathaniel Russell, later a prominent member of the Colebrook church, went to Boston in January, 1776, under Col. Erastus Wolcott and remained about six weeks until the British evacuated the city. Samuel Seymour, mentioned later as of Colebrook, assisted in throwing up defenses around New York that winter. Thomas Tibbals of Norfolk, a drummer, later of Colebrook, was stationed for several months at Fort Stanwix, N. Y., under General Schuyler. He was a pensioner. In response to Washington's call for re-enforcements in the summer of 1776 for the campaign around New York John Rockwell, of Colebrook, went as a lieutenant in Col. Gay's Second Battalion and served from June 20 to December 20, 1776. With him was Samuel Cowles, and Epanhras Bidwell and Allen Seymour were in Col. Chester's Sixth Battalion. They were engaged in the battle of Long Island on August 27, retreating from New York September 15 and joining the main army at White Plains.

Requisition was made later in the summer for 14 regiments of militia under General Oliver Wolcott. Being summoned hastily the troops were poorly armed and equipped; many were undisciplined, disease spread rapidly. Among these troops were Nathan Bass and John Porter in the 18th Regiment under Capt. Aaron Griswold, who served from Aug. 19, and Samuel Seymour in the Ninth Regiment. About the time of the retreat of the American forces from New York, news was brought to Colebrook that Nathan Bass had died there on Sept. 10.

CHAPTER XIII

Incorporation; First Town Meeting

It was fourteen years from the time the first settler, Benjamin Horton, chose a site and built a house on the North road establishing himself a resident of Colebrook in December, 1765, until the town was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly and was duly organized with town officers who set out to shape its destiny and work for its welfare and the welfare of each other. Colebrook took its place among the towns of Connecticut along with Barkhamsted, the two towns being incorporated at the same time in the same act at the October session of the General Assembly, 1779.

The act of incorporation is as follows:

"At a General Assembly of the Governor and Company of the State of Connecticut holden at Hartford on the second Thursday of Oct., A. D. 1779.

"Upon representation to this Assembly that the towns of Colebrook and Barkhamsted remain to this day unincorporated and not as yet vested with the privileges, benefits and authorities by law given and used by the other towns of this state. Therefore, **RESOLVED** by this Assembly that the towns of Colebrook and Barkhamsted be, and they hereby are, vested with all the rights, liberties, privileges and authorities that other towns in this state by law have, and shall, sometime in the month of December, next, by warning from an assistant or Justice of the Peace, meet and choose town officers in the same manner as other towns by law are directed, and it is further Resolved that the said towns of Colebrook and Barkhamsted be, and they are hereby, ordered and directed to make and transact to the General Assembly on October, next, a list of all the polls and property within the said towns, respectively, on the twentieth day of August, next, in the same manner and form as other towns in this state by law are required to do, and the Secretary is hereby required to notify the said towns of Colebrook and Barkhamsted of this resolve and order so that said towns may take such measures as are necessary for that purpose."

A true copy of record

examined by George Wylls, *Secretary*.

Colebrook was the last of the original towns in the Colony to be organized, following Barkhamsted. The other towns

incorporated at later dates were taken in whole or in part from original townships.

It was an interesting occasion when the little band of settlers, having been "legally warned," as the town clerk, Elijah Rockwell, wrote in the town records soon after, gathered around the fireplace in the home of Capt. Samuel Rockwell on that winter day, December 13, 1779, and took the action necessary to start business as a body politic. Naturally, Capt. Rockwell as the host and a born leader was chosen moderator of the meeting. His nephew, Elijah Rockwell, trusting, painstaking and accomplished, was elected register or town clerk, which office he was to hold for sixty-one years.

There were many things talked over and considerable business done at this first meeting. A nearly complete list of officers was chosen for the ensuing year. No tax was laid as far as the records show for a year though votes were passed which would incur some expense and a town treasurer, a lister and a collector were named.

After the choice of the moderator and clerk, the following officers were chosen: David Pinney, Samuel Mills, John Porter, selectmen; Elijah Rockwell, town treasurer; Pelatiah Mills, constable; Moses Wright, "grand jury"; David Pinney, Samuel Mills and Capt. Samuel Rockwell, surveyors of highways. Here the election was interrupted long enough to vote that the selectmen "set out the Destricks for the surveyors."

The election of officers was then continued as follows: Jacob Ogden, John Rockwell, Capt. Samuel Rockwell, listers; Peletiah Mills, collector; Nathaniel Burr, brander of horses and sealer of water; Moses Wright, sealer of measures.

It was voted that there be two pounds in the town, one on the southeast corner of David Pinney's lot on the north side of the Norfolk (North) road and the other on the southeast corner of Samuel Mills' lot on the west side of the "Sandersfield road." It was voted that the selectmen provide sheds and gates to the above pounds, and David Pinney and Samuel Mills were elected pound keepers. The election of officers for the day was completed by the choice of Capt. Rockwell as the sealer of leather. The final action of the meeting was to pass a vote that it be sufficient warning for the inhabitants to bring in their lists, the listers to "set ye notification on the two scholehouses and signpost in town."

Another meeting was held March 14, 1780, when Andrew Buckingham, Eleazar Bidwell and John Porter were chosen "inspectors of provitions," and the town clerk, Elijah Rockwell, was directed to procure a town book on the town's cost.

The Revolutionary War was in progress and several references were made in the town meetings in the next two

or three years pertaining to the filling of the town's quota of enlisted soldiers. Nearly all the towns at this period of the war were having difficulty in furnishing the number of soldiers needed. Official mention of Colebrook's participation in the war was first made at a meeting at Capt. Samuel Rockwell's June 26, 1780, six months after the town was organized. The captain was moderator. It was, "voted, that each non-commissioned officer and soldier that shall Inlist or be detached to sarve in the Continental line or state sarvice for this town for any term of time whatsoever after the date hereof shall receive 48 shillings or in that proportion from the time they shall sarve from the treasurer of the town, one-third in whet at four shillings and six pence per bushel, one-third rye at three shillings per bushel and the other third in Indian corn at two shillings and five pence per bushel or the value thereof in money. To be paid as soon as their wages are drawn and all non-commissioned officers and soldiers now in state sarvice shall be entitled to the above wages their paying their own into the town treasury. Dated June 26 Day 1780.

"Voted, that the thanks of this meeting be paid to Capt. Sill and Capt. Chipman for their generous assistance to this town towards filling up their quota of Continental troops.

Voted, that the treasurer of the town be directed on condition that above troops answer the purpose of the town to pay an acknowledgement to Capt. Sill and Capt. Chipman of 40 shillings each of Connecticut new emittion and 20 shillings to each soldier who hath engaged for this town by the hand of Capt. Sill."

There was a change in some of the town officers at the next annual town meeting, December 4, 1780. John Porter was dropped from the board of selectmen, and Capt. Samuel Rockwell was named first on the board. Nathaniel Burr was made constable and the survevors chosen were Aaron Griswold, John Porter, Joseph Bidwell, Elijah Rockwell and Hezekiah Simons. Eleazer Bidwell was elected one of the listers in place of Capt. Rockwell. Nathaniel Burr was also chosen collector and brander of horses, Joseph Taintor "grand jury," and Joseph Bidwell tythingman. David Pinney was the only one named for poundkeeper. The selectmen were directed to make a reasonable compensation to the collector for collecting the rates (taxes) from the non-resident proprietors. A tax of nine pence on the pound in hard money or other money at the current exchange on the list of 1780 was voted, "to be collected as soon as may be," but this vote was changed to a shilling on the pound at a meeting January 22, 1781, the tax to be collected by March 1st.

At this meeting in January a committee was appointed consisting of John Porter, Ebenezer Shepard and Solomon Crissey "to hier a man for state sarvice till the first of March, 1782." A tax of two pence on the pound on the list of 1780 on the polls and rateable estate of the inhabitants was voted to be collected by February 10. and "double to any parson who shall not pay his tax by the time." Joseph Taintor was also directed to collect this tax and pay it to the treasurer and he to pay out the whole to the committee or such part as "shall be required for the purpose." It was then voted that "the encouragement granted to the non-commissioned officers and soldiers or privite on 26 June 1780 who should enlist or be detached to sarve in the Continental line or state sarvice be null and void." and a new vote passed that "those who enlist between the 15 date and January 1st next receive from the treasurer forty-eight shillings per month in hard money or any other money." instead of grain as before.

At a meeting February 5. 1781. it was voted that the treasurer pay June Sharp, John Willmor, Thomas Stafford and George Hudson 20 shillings when they had it properly certified by their officers that they had joined the Continental army in behalf of the town of Colebrook, in lieu of all former bounties granted. Likewise the treasurer was directed to pay Philip Riley twenty shillings State's money.

CHAPTER XIV

School Districts, Roads, Bridges and other Town Problems

Mention was made at the first town meeting requiring the listers to post their notices on the two schoolhouses. It will thus be seen that the town had already given attention to the education of the children. No doubt the two schoolhouses had been built several years, one on the North road near Capt. Joseph Rockwell's and one at the Center. The next mention of school in Colebrook was at the meeting on February 5, 1781, at Capt. Samuel Rockwell's when it was voted that the school districts be two for the town; the North district to extend from the State line south as far as Capt. Rockwell's at the Center including "the whole of his list," (taxable property) that the inhabitants living above two miles from the Winchester line belong to the North district, exempting John Porter who was connected with a district in Norfolk. that all who lived in the said south district, two miles, belong to the South district: and that money raised from the non-resident proprietors be divided according to the lists of inhabitants in each district.

At the third annual town meeting, December 10, 1781, it was decided to have only one town pound and that it be "ajining the south of Capt. Rockwell's garding to be built by the direction of the selectmen." Timothy Rockwell was chosen pound keeper. At this meeting it was voted to lay a tax of eight pence on the pound and that there be ten pounds of the money paid to each committee of the two school districts in town for schooling the ensuing year. Jacob Ogden and Moses Wright were chosen as a school committee for the South district and Samuel Mills and Capt. Samuel Rockwell for the North district. Nathaniel Burr was given another town office, that of grave digger for the ensuing year, to be paid by the town treasurer. It was decided at this time that warning for the annual town meeting be "by setting up notification in writing eight days before the meeting on the signpost and on the two schoolhouses." The next May it was voted that it be legal for the selectmen to open a town meeting, if the clerk were present, within one hour after the time set in the warning and "proceed on business." These votes were due probably to the controversy over locating the church.

The board of selectmen was increased to five at the annual meeting December 2, 1782. Those chosen were Mr. Mills, Capt. Rockwell, Capt. David Tiffany, John Porter and Edmond Howell. Jacob Ogden and Joseph Seymour were appointed surveyors of roads. At an adjourned meeting three weeks later the town began to take up its road problems, the laying out of roads having been done mostly by the proprietors who held meetings for several years after the town was organized. It was voted to lay out a road from Ensign Joseph Seymour's to Norfolk near 'Roger Orvis' and one from near Mr. Ogden's sawmill to the "Sandersfield road." Capt. David Pinney, Mr. Howell and Mr. Mills were appointed to exchange public lands for roads.

At the annual meeting December 1, 1783. Town Clerk Elijah Rockwell and Jacob Ogden were named as the school committee for the South district and Samuel Mills and Eleazar Bidwell for the North district. Seven pounds was voted for "schooling each district and expended for the Incoragement of schools . . ." In June it was decided to make an abatement of three-quarters of the tax rate of those non-resident proprietors whose taxes were four-folded on the lists of 1781, 1782 and 1783. The school question came up again at the annual meeting, December 6. 1784. when the selectmen and school committees were appointed to look into the affairs of schooling in the town and make a report at the next meeting. It was also voted to buy two new revised law books of the State, "purchased on the cost of the town to be the town property," one to be kept at the town clerk's office and the other to be circulated and kept for the use of the town. Edmond Howell was directed to procure the books as soon as possible.

What the investigation regarding the schools was about is explained by the action taken at the adjourned town meeting, December 19, 1785. when it was voted that "Lieut. John Porter. Berzillen Hendee, Henry White and the people on Beech Hill. so called, shall be paid by the school committee such as their school rates (taxes) have amounted to the past year as shown by certificates to the acceptance of the committee that they had expended money in other schools for schooling their children within said time." At this meeting the electors pounced upon Capt. David Pinney, who, with Capt. Rockwell, was added to the board of selectmen two weeks before. by passing a vote "that if Capt. David Pinney shall not settle up his rate bill with the treasurer by the first of March, next, the treasurer is directed then to grant out his warrant against him for what there shall be due on said bill." At the next election, December 4, 1786, Daniel Eno was

elected a selectman in place of Capt. Pinney. However, the captain was chosen one of the listers.

The bridge problem in Colebrook, which has always been a large one on account of the many rivers and brooks, came up for action at this meeting when it was voted that three pence on the pound raised on the list of 1786 be appropriated to defray the expenses of building bridges. On top of the previous action that eight days' notice of a town meeting be given comes the pronounced suspicion that there was some political trickery going on when it was "Voted, that for the future no vote passed in town meeting in this town after sun down shall be legal or stand in force." Ten days later it was voted that the three penny bridge tax be payable to the treasurer by March 15 and that twenty-seven pounds of the money be expended if need be at the bridge near the mouth of Sandy Brook, Robertsville, and John Rockwell, Daniel Eggleston and Elijah Rockwell, Esq., were appointed to erect the bridge. Another committee, Samuel Mills, Edmond Howell and Roger Stillman, was appointed to erect two bridges on the same stream, "one to accommodate Beech Hill, so called, and the other across Sandy Brook on a road (North Colebrook) leading to Orvises in Norfolk." The men employed to work on the bridges were to be allowed four shillings a day after the month of May commenced, "they finding themselves with victuals." That there was no escaping nor "soldiering" on the road work is shown by a vote passed April 9, 1787, when the selectmen were instructed, "at some future day to take under consideration a motion made to this meeting by Mr. Cary Pratt requesting to be exempt in whole or in part for a warrant now out against him for two days' delinquency at the highway and to regulate the said exemption accordingly."

Eight years after the town was organized it was not ready to take its place with other towns in State affairs for at a meeting November 19, 1787, it was decided the town would not "chuse" a representative to the general convention of the State to be holden at Hartford on January next. At the same meeting at which this decision was made it was voted, "that the swine belonging to the inhabitants of this town be admitted to run at large in the highways and commons till the 20th day of May, next."

The next annual town meeting was "legally warned and opened at the meeting house in Colebrook" on December 3, 1787, but after Samuel Mills was chosen moderator it was immediately adjourned to the house of Capt. Rockwell. The cheer around the big fireplace at the captain's was appreciated in contrast to the cold barnlike church. Only three selectmen were chosen, Joseph Bidwell, Daniel Eno and Isaac Kneeland.

Ten days later at an adjourned meeting a vote was passed that "the meeting be continued two hours after sun down." Capt. Rockwell, Samuel Mills and John Rockwell were appointed to assist the selectmen in laying out highways and to remove nuisances and prevent encroachments on the highways and public lands. The meeting was adjourned to January 7, 1788, when Isaac Kneeland was directed to procure water for the town. Possibly this meant to set up a watering trough.

The compass direction upon which the lines running east and west dividing the lots was discovered to have diverged considerably at different points and caused much confusion and agitation, for on April 21, 1788 Samuel Mills was appointed agent of the town to make application to the General Assembly in the May session "to establish the run of lines of the lots in this town at a point (which may be found) that the lots have generally been run at for 18 or 20 years past." John Rockwell, Capt. David Pinney and Timothy Rockwell were chosen to find out the point the lots had been "generally run at," and were empowered to call in other assistance if they found it needful.

As a result of the Memorial presented by Mr. Mills, an act was passed by the General Assembly at the May session, 1788, as follows: "On the Memorial of the inhabitants of the town of Colebrook, by their agent showing to this Assembly that the north and south lines of said town not running parallel with each other, that the proprietors of said town in proprietors' meeting in the year 1764 voted that the lines between the lots in said town should run parallel with the south line of said town, that by a partial examination of said line by surveyor employed by said proprietors a point was then affixed which by custom and universal consent hath been invariably adhered to, that by a late examination of the south line of said town it is found to be a very imperfect guide, that it runs different points in different places, that the general run of said line varies from the point that lots in said town have been run, that to establish and confirm the lines of the lots as they have been run will be of advantage to the inhabitants in said town. . . . Resolved by this Assembly that the lines of the lots in the aforesaid town of Colebrook be and they are hereby confirmed and established as they have heretofore been laid out." At a meeting in June the committee was directed to "affix standards for the regulation of a compass, one to be at the line between General Erastus Wolcott and Benjamin Barber and the other to be on the line between Samuel Mills and Capt. Josiah Phelps."

CHAPTER XV

The Rockwell Iron Forges

At the annual meeting of the proprietors at Capt. Rockwell's house, December 1, 1788, Samuel Mills being moderator again, a committee of seven, consisting of Capt. John Porter, Daniel Eno, Samuel Mills, Ebenezer Church, Samuel Gowdy, Edmund Howell and Daniel Eggleston, was appointed upon the captain's motion to view and report its opinion about the exchange of public land for the erection of an iron works by the captain for other land for the highway. At the next meeting, which was held three weeks later, the committee was empowered to lease "said place and land to said Rockwell according to the survey lately taken by Lieut. John Rockwell for the term of 999 years in behalf of said proprietors on condition that said Samuel Rockwell make out and execute a good warrantee deed of the mill place and land surveyed by said Lieut. Rockwell which are purposed for the exchange."

On January 5, 1789 it was voted to accept the exchange of land taken from the Sandisfield road to be used by Capt. Rockwell for erecting his iron works on condition that he give "a deed of the land surveyed for the roadway across to the lower mills place," this being the layout of the present highway through Colebrook Center.

Soon after this, two refining forges were built at Colebrook by Capt. Rockwell and his sons, of whom there were five associated in business with their father, Timothy, Solomon, Reuben, Alpha and Martin. Samuel, Jr., the eldest son, was a physician in Sharon. There were then, or soon afterwards, other forges in Robertsville, Salisbury, Canaan, Norfolk, Winsted, Cornwall, Kent, Litchfield and Washington. Judge Samuel Church in his address at the Centennial celebration of Litchfield County in 1851 said that bar iron became a sort of circulating medium and promissory notes were more frequently made payable in iron than in money.

Mr. Boyd, the Winchester historian, who married Solomon Rockwell's daughter, Jerusha, widow of Theodore Hinsdale, said: "All these forges manufactured refined bar iron from the best quality of Old Salisbury Ore Hill pig iron for the supply of the United States Armory at Springfield, which required the best iron the country could produce. If there was the slightest defect in the quality, the finished gunbarrel would reveal it by defective polish or failure to stand the proof of a double test charge. Only a limited portion of the

iron made could be brought up to these crucial tests by the skilled workmen. Iron of a slightly inferior grade was required for scythes, wire rods and fine machinery. A still lower grade answered for the ordinary uses of country blacksmiths. In the process of refining, the cinders drawn off through the tent plate retained a percentage of iron nearly equal to the ordinary hematite ores. This was worked over in a chafery or bloomary fire, and produced a strong coarse iron, which was worked into tires, axle and crowbar patterns and plow molds, or into heavy shafting, sawmill cranks, etc. Each forge had in connection with it a drafting shop with lighter hammers to draw down the bars into rods and shapes of all kinds in demand, and especially to work up the refuse iron by welding to each piece an equal layer of blistered steel, and drawing the united masses into sleigh shoes."

Capt. Samuel Rockwell and his son Timothy died in 1794 and the business was then carried on in the name of Solomon Rockwell & Brothers, the two firms continuing in business for nearly fifty years. In the twenty-seven years before Capt. Rockwell's death they had cleared about 200 acres of land, built a saw mill, a grist mill, a potashery, two iron forges and a steel furnace.

Mr. Boyd in another reference says: "The Rockwell Brothers, Solomon, Reuben, Alpha and Martin, were engaged in the iron business in Colebrook at the close of the eighteenth century. Their works were on the stream flowing out of the meadows at the Center which were submerged by their dam, making an extensive pond of shallow water; and a nuisance was generated thereby which caused the death of several residents of the vicinity by fever. It consequently became necessary to lower their dam and drain the meadows in order to disinfect the atmosphere. This rendered the water power insufficient for their works and obliged them to change their locality."

This was a severe blow to Colebrook for it caused the removal from that town of its principal industry and the loss of two of its most valued citizens, Solomon and Alpha Rockwell, who became leaders in Winsted. The other two brothers, Reuben and Martin, remained in Colebrook. In 1799, the Rockwell brothers bought of Rev. John Sweet, a Methodist preacher and Revolutionary soldier, the Deacon David Austin mill property on the Lake stream in Winsted, and in 1802 removed one of their Colebrook forges there, abandoned the other the same or following year, and built a second forge in Winsted in 1808, which was converted into a scythe shop about 1845.

"The first cementing steel furnace in western Connecticut," continued Mr. Boyd, "was erected before 1800 in Colebrook by Rockwell Brothers, under the supervision of Mr. Jencks, an ingenious iron and steel worker from Taunton, Mass., which was in existence as late as 1872. James Boyd & Son erected the third steel furnace on Munro Street in Winsted in 1832 for converting their own iron into steel which they were selling in large quantities to fork manufacturers, but the inducements held by the Colebrook concern made it more advantageous to have their iron converted there than to do it themselves. The Salisbury iron lacked the quality that produced good edged tools but had an elasticity that made it desirable for carriage springs, fork tines and similar articles."

Hon. Francis W. Rockwell, grandson of Reuben Rockwell and congressman from Massachusetts, in his book, "The Rockwell Family," said he remembered in his youth watching the operations of converting iron bars into blistered steel, so called, in the old furnace at Colebrook at the foot of the hill west of "the store." "Daniel Cobb and Phineas Williams were the experts employed. Large piles of wood stood nearby. The long, thin, narrow iron bars were placed in layers in the furnace, made, I think, of fire brick and good fire stone, with an arched top; charcoal dust was placed underneath and between the layers of iron bars. The whole was covered with clay or sand, to exclude the air. The great fire was started in the long vault below the furnace and at each end, and there were openings below to maintain an even fire. The process of carburizing took eight or ten days and then the product was allowed to cool about a week. The fires were kept burning day and night. The process of cementation was discovered by drawing out a test bar. The bars were brought from forges out of town and carried back in wagons. They were then ready to be worked up as determined at the forges. The furnace was enclosed in a large wooden building and may have cost perhaps \$2,000. It required great care and good judgment to obtain the best results. This old steel furnace, as it was called, was evidently built with great care and was well arranged for its purposes."

CHAPTER XVI

Town Relief—Waterbury Turnpike

When the action was taken, December 22, 1788, to exchange land with Capt. Rockwell, making the layout of the highway through the Center pass east of his dwelling instead of west of it, the town also voted that the rams found within the bounds of this town running at large and unrestrained from the first of September to the middle of November next ensuing should be forfeited to him or them who should secure and take them up. Hogs were more privileged in those days for it was voted at the same meeting that the swine belonging to the inhabitants of this town should not be subject to be impounded by any person (excepting the hayward) on the highway or commons and not within any inclosure for the ensuing year.

Another town meeting held February 23, 1789, was adjourned from the church to Capt. Rockwell's house. It was voted that Samuel Phillips be permitted to sell his land in Colebrook on condition that the person who purchased it be obliged to see Mr. Phillips and his family transported "on the said Phillips' cost" up the Mohawk River as far as Fort Herkimer. But Colebrook did not get rid of the Phillips family as easily as that, for at the next meeting, in July, David Pinney was chosen a committee to assist the selectmen in making provision for the Phillips and Martin families "now on the town's cost." Alas, Colebrook had its relief problems in the first decade of its history!

In this year, when General Washington was inaugurated first president of the United States, money was very scarce, for a vote on July 9, 1789, is recorded, "that there be raised on the grand levy of this town on the list of the year 1788 two pence on the pound payable betwixt the 15th and 30th of November, next, in the following articles which are good and merchantald (merchantable) at the following price, (viz.) Beaf and mutton at 2 pence per pound, pork at 2¾, butter at 7d, cheese at 4pd, wheat at 4/6 per bushel, rye at 3/ per do, Indian corn at 2/6 per do, buckwheat at 1/10 per do, oats at 1/4 per do, bar iron at 20/ per hundred, sheeps wool at 1/6 per pound." Joseph Taintor was chosen to collect the rate (tax). He must have been a busy man that half month in November.

At the same meeting it was voted to accept the survey of a road "taken by the selectmen and proprietors' committee from the forks of the Norfolk and Sandisfield road near David Eno running southerly to Winchester line across Goodwin's and Palmer land." This highway, a continuation of the Sandisfield road beginning at H. L. Culver's, formerly known as the New Haven Turnpike and also the Waterbury River Turnpike, was a famous stage route. Boyd's Annals says: "The Waterbury River (Naugatuck) Turnpike, running through Colebrook and Winchester, and then down the Naugatuck Valley, was chartered this year (1801) and soon after was opened. It crossed the Green Woods Turnpike at the Crocker house (Winslow Park), passed through Winchester Centre village, and thence southerly to and along the Naugatuck branch to Wolcottville (Torrington). Much benefit to stockholders and travelers was anticipated, but was never realized. Its income in course of years ceased to pay expenses, and about 1850 the company threw open their gates and surrendered their charter."

CHAPTER XVII

*Religious Services; Movement to Build a Meeting
House*

The first reference in the town records to holding religious services in Colebrook is in the record of the adjourned second town meeting on April 10, 1780, at Capt. Samuel Rockwell's house, at which the captain was moderator as before. That they had been holding religious meetings for a considerable time is shown by a vote which was taken the next winter providing for the payment to Rev. Samuel John Mills, familiarly known as Father Mills, for preaching in 1778. He had been pastor at Tarringford since 1769. It is quite certain the Colebrook people had also attended church services at Norfolk six miles away, the church there being the nearest. Rev. Ammi Ruhammah Robbins, a chaplain in the Revolutionary War in the Northern Campaign, had been pastor at Norfolk since 1761.

At the adjourned Colebrook town meeting a committee, composed of Capt. Rockwell, Samuel Mills and Jacob Ogden, operator of the forge in Robertsville, was appointed to "hier" preaching for the ensuing year. The next vote shows how closely ecclesiastical and town affairs were allied. The town government, in fact, at first took the place of the ecclesiastical society. This was the cause of many controversies in a large number of towns throughout the State. It was, "voted, the committee hier not exceeding 20 sabbaths preaching in Colebrook the present year and all the just cost for preaching, bording, etc., to be charged by them to the town." This was followed by still another vote which shows they acted cautiously in the matter of expense and did not want a great burden on their hands in holding religious services as they had as yet a meeting house as well as a minister to provide: "Voted, that Captain Samuel Rockwell be an agent for the town to apply to the General Assembly in October, next, in order to keep off a state tax if possible." That Capt. Rockwell was pre-eminently the man to represent them in this cause and that he attained success in presenting their plea is shown in the following resolution passed at the next session of the Legislature:

Memorial

"At a General Assembly of the Governor and Company of the State of Connecticut holden at Hartford on the second Thursday of October, 1780, upon the memorial of the town of Colebrook by their agent, Capt. Samuel Rockwell, showing that this assembly by their act in October last directed said town to return a list of the polls and rateable estate within said town in order to their contributing to the Public Burthens of the State, that the memorialists having now complied with said order and also having laid before this Assembly the state and circumstances of said town that they are destitute as yet of a minister of the Gospel and of a meeting house and are taking measures to obtain the same, that their numbers are small, the land rough and stubborn to subdue and have many other difficulties to encounter, all of which renders their circumstances inadequate to a public tax at present, praying to be excused from it, etc., as per Memorial, etc.

"This Assembly taking this case into consideration do, Resolve, and it is hereby resolved, and ordered that said inhabitants be excused from exhibiting any list of their polls or rateable estate in said town whereby it be subjected to any state tax at this time."

"A true copy of record,

by George Wyllys,

Secretary."

The movement to build a church took form at another adjourned meeting September 22, 1780, at which David Pinney was moderator. It was voted, "that this town make application to the next county court for a committee to set a stake for a meeting in this town," which the town clerk recorded was "agreed without one dissenting vote." Following this was a vote that, Captain Uriel Holmes of Hartland, Col. Seth Smith of New Hartford and Major Giles Pettibone of Norfolk, be nominated as the committee.

At the same meeting the men appointed at the April meeting to secure a preacher were appointed the Society's committee for the ensuing year and instructed to make application to the County Court at the present session for the special committee to set the stake for the meeting house. The Court acceded to the request and at the next annual town meeting held on December 4, Samuel Mills, David Pinney and Capt. Samuel Rockwell were appointed a committee "to call out the committee apinted by the County Court to set a meeting house stake." These Colebrook men had just been elected selectmen

in the reverse order. Capt. Rockwell, succeeding John Porter on the board, was named first selectman in place of Mr. Pinney.

The next town meeting held on January 22, 1781, was not so harmonious. The special committee to set the stake for the meeting house had visited Colebrook and designated as the site for the church a location on the hill north of the Mill Brook at the Center near what became later the home site of Rev. Chauncey Lee, now that of Arthur B. Johnson. Capt. Rockwell was moderator as usual. The town clerk entered this record: "Voted, that the town agree to the doings of the committee in setting a stake for a meeting house in said town by a majority of about two votes."

Establishing a church site was a momentous question for other interests were involved besides merely finding a suitable and convenient place to erect a house of worship. It had a bearing on where the business center of the town was to be located, which in turn would affect property values. The committee had selected a site that was about as central as could have been found, for the people had settled as far as two or three miles in every direction. The closeness of the vote was no doubt the cause of starting a controversy which was to last for fourteen years. But Colebrook was not the only town to wrangle over the location of its meeting house. for simultaneously the adjoining ecclesiastical society of Winsted was engaged in a controversy for 15 years over locating its meeting house on Wallen's Hill and over hiring a minister. During this controversy a large part of its membership withdrew. Many other societies passed through similar experiences.

Although the site for the church had been approved, the residents in the South district, from the Mill Brook at the Center to the southern boundary, a distance of about two miles, expressed so much dissatisfaction that at a town meeting at Capt. Rockwell's, May 10, 1782, nearly a year and five months after the former meeting, it was voted to apply to the General Assembly to set aside the doings of the honorable County Court which had approved the church site the year before in March and ask for the appointment of another committee to set a stake for a meeting house. This step was necessary as the site of the church had already been established legally. Seeing that the southern faction was about to press the matter, the northern people, to make peace in the town, joined with the southerners, and Capt. Rockwell, a northerner, was delegated "to procure the Memorial and manage the same." The captain was successful. John Rockwell was moderator of the next town meeting, August 20, 1782, at which a committee

of six, consisting of Capt. Rockwell, John Rockwell, Samuel Mills, John Porter, Edmond Howell and Eleazer Bidwell. was appointed to call out the committee authorized by the General Assembly to set a stake for a meeting house and "to victual and provide for the same."

The new committee members were Daniel Humphrey of Simsbury, Hezekiah Fitch of Salisbury and John Watson of Canaan. After viewing the town and hearing the people they set the stake north of the brook near what was long known as the Calvin Sage house, about 30 rods south of where the former committee had set it. On October 4, the town voted to agree to the doings of the committee in setting the stake for the meeting house, and at the annual meeting December 23, 1782, it was, "Voted, that this town proceed to do something towards building a meeting house." Samuel Mills, Capt. Samuel Rockwell and Capt. David Pinney were named as the "committee to manage the prudential affairs of building the above said meeting house." It looked now as though the church was really going to be built.

In the meantime the affairs of the church and community had not stood still because of the controversy, for at the August meeting in 1782, a tax of one pence on the pound was voted to procure a singing master in the fall or winter "in order to instruct the inhabitants of the town in the art of singing." John Rockwell, Samuel Mills and Eleazer Bidwell were named to procure a singing master and Timothy Rockwell to collect and account for the penny tax and "to manage the prudentials of the singing school."

At the same meeting Moses Wright, Edmund Howell and Capt. Samuel Rockwell were chosen to apply to Rev. Roswell Cook to preach in Colebrook the next summer, "with a view to settle with us as a gospel minister if we can agree." Rev. Mr. Cook was a graduate of Yale, in 1777. He may have preached in Colebrook the summer of 1783, but he did not accept a call to become pastor because he was settled in Montville, near New London, in 1784 and remained there until his death in 1798. A revival occurred in Norfolk under Rev. Mr. Robbins in 1783 and fifty-two members were added to the church. Colebrook people attended these meetings, "caught the flame" and brought home the revival spirit. At the annual meeting, December 1, 1783, Eleazer Bidwell was "empowered to draw three pounds out of the treasury to be paid out of Capt. Pinney's ratebill and to be laid out for the encouragement of singing this winter." Six sabbaths preaching was authorized that winter and fifteen sabbaths preaching in the summer of 1784. The first application for a preacher that

summer was made to Abraham Fowler. It was voted at a meeting July 10, 1784, "that the town take under consideration the memorial of a number of the inhabitants of Winsted desiring to be annexed to said town as an ecclesiastical society." Samuel Blakesley, Eleazer Bidwell and Nathan Bass were chosen "Quaristors" for the year. In October it was voted, "that this town will accept a number of the inhabitants of the Society of Winsted agreeable to their memorial as an ecclesiastical society, if the General Assembly shall see fit to annex them to us for that purpose."

CHAPTER XVIII

*The Fourteen Years' Controversy Ends Happily;
Ministerial and Parsonage Lots*

In the meantime nothing further was said in the town records about the meeting house until at the October meeting in 1784 it was voted to "make application to the General Assembly at this next session for a new committee to set a stake for building a meeting house in said town." Colebrook's forty-eight families needed more than the spiritual uplift of the revival to unite upon a site for a church. What had happened is best told in the manuscript of Reuben Rockwell:

"Perceiving that the Mill Brook, so called, was the Rubicon or parting-point which neither party were willing to pass, it seemed to be their (the Committee's) object to set their stake as near as practicable to the line of demarkation. The southern people were dissatisfied for two reasons, first, because it was set north of the brook: second, because the ground was very unsuitable for a meeting house, several declaring they had much rather go 30 rods farther north to the place where the first stake was set than build on a place so unfavorable. The northern people, though not pleased with the ground, yet, as they had again obtained one point considered important in having the stake set north of the brook, made no objection to the place, and a committee was appointed and preparations made for building the house.

"The committee proceeded to prepare the foundation and frame the house, when an opposition on the part of the southern people was manifested, a meeting called, and, after much altercation and mutual crimination, it was voted to postpone for the present raising the house. The timber was piled and secured from injury. The prospects at this time were gloomy: every appearance seemed to indicate a people ruined by contention, the termination of which seemed more remote than ever. While these difficulties were prevailing, sectarian teachers made inroads into the town and gained proselytes, especially in the northern part, and from this unhappy controversy may be dated the rise of the Baptist society in the northern part of the town. Things remained in this situation for a considerable time, when, the excitement having in some measure subsided and the evils resulting from the present state of the society become more and more realized, some person, perhaps someone inclined to speculating and hazardous enterprises,



*Martin Rockwell House, built by Timothy Rockwell in 1793
(Now owned by Mrs. Mary Emerson Lathrop, great-grand-daughter of Martin Rockwell)*

suggested a plan which soon became a subject of general conversation, and, as the people were heartily tired of the controversy, they were prepared to listen to any expedient which appeared calculated to terminate their difficulties. The plan was this, and proposed in terms like the following:

“‘We are none of us pleased with the place now established—there are handsome and convenient sites not far distant, both north and south—and we and our posterity shall forever regret a result so unwise as to build the house on a place so unsuitable and improper when good places are so near; therefore let us affix on two places, one north and the other south of the brook, the line of separation, and cast a fair lot to decide on which of the two places the house shall be built, and then forever decide the controversy.’

“Strange as it may seem, a project so novel met with almost universal approbation, was adopted, and soon carried into effect. The plans agreed on were, on the north part, the place near where the first stake was set, and on the south part, on the place where Mr. Martin Rockwell’s (Mrs. Edward Lathrop) house now stands. The lot was drawn and fell in favor of the southern place, and measures were immediately taken to remove the timber and raise the house. This was accomplished, the house covered and lighted, the floors laid, and apparent tranquility and acquiescence on the part of the northern people appeared for a while to prevail. But it was not long before it became apparent that the wound, though in appearance healed, was still festering, and would soon break out and become more alarming in its symptoms than ever. The northern people refused to join in procuring preaching, or in any measure to build up the society, and, though there was now a meeting-house, nearly one-half of the people would not enter the doors. Things continued in this situation for a considerable time, and the prospects of union seemed as remote as ever. The northern people were called on for the reasons of their conduct, and for what would satisfy them. The lot they considered an unfortunate thing, which, in their desire to have something done to remove the difficulties, they had inadvertently agreed to. The direction of two committees was in their favor, and nothing but chance against them, and nothing less would satisfy them than the removal of the house north of the brook.

“New actors were coming on the stage; some of the southern people began to express their wishes that the meeting-house was north of the brook, and some were ready to join in efforts to remove it. The principal actors among the southern

people, tired and worn out with a fruitless controversy, seemed inclined to withdraw and let others manage the business as they pleased. A vote was obtained, in the spring or summer of 1793, to remove the house north of the brook, the expense to be defrayed by tax on the society. Preparations were accordingly made to accomplish this object. The plan adopted, after due consultation and advice, was to remove the house, standing, during the winter season with oxen. Preparations were accordingly made to perform this Quixotic enterprise, and in the month of February, 1794, the attempt was made. About 150 pair of oxen were collected, and after the necessary preparation were fastened to the house, and it began to move majestically forward; but, there being a small descent soon to pass, it was found, contrary to the confident expectations of Capt. Watson, the man employed to direct and superintend the moving, that it would move forward with rapidity without being drawn, and as, in order to proceed, the descent necessary to pass was much greater, it was judged utterly impracticable to proceed, and after two days' labor, the house having been moved about 30 rods, the project was for the present abandoned. In the autumn following another attempt was made, at the expense of subscribers, to remove the house with vessel machinery—pulleys and ropes; but after a trial this plan was also found to be attended with insuperable difficulties. Tired, worn out, and frustrated with these fruitless projects, the actors in this business seemed disposed to sit down and count the cost. The delusions of party feeling and obstinacy seemed in a measure to vanish; and sober reason and consideration, to resume their influence, and they were led to inquire whether the object they were with so much perplexity and expense pursuing could be accomplished, and, provided it could, whether the southern people generally would unite with them in building up the society. Neither of these questions could be affirmatively answered with correctness. It was therefore, after due consultation, agreed to open a negotiation with the southern people, in order to effect a settlement of the controversy. The overtures submitted were that the house should be placed on the nearest suitable place to where it then was, and the expense incurred in the attempt to move, defrayed by the society. A meeting was called, the agreement consummated, and the house removed to the place where it now stands (Reuben Rockwell's) and then, after an unhappy controversy of 14 years, peace and union were restored, and all seemed disposed to join their efforts and aid in building up the society. Measures were immediately adopted to procure preaching."

Ministerial and Parsonage Lots

The controversy which had been brewing for two and a half years between the Congregational Ecclesiastical Society and the invading Baptists in North Colebrook over the disposition of the ministerial lot of sixty acres, which was set off by the proprietors to be the property of the first orthodox minister in Colebrook, was finally settled in 1797. As soon as it was voted by the Baptists to employ Elder Babcock in December, 1794, steps were taken by them to sell the ministerial lot which they claimed, the elder having preceded Dr. Edwards as pastor by a year. Soon after his arrival in Colebrook in 1795, Dr. Edwards agreed to convey his right in the ministerial lot to the Ecclesiastical Society, which was done.

On March 9, 1797, the Ecclesiastical Society appointed Nathan Bass, Samuel Phillips and Seth Whiting a committee on the ministerial and parsonage lots and Elijah Rockwell, Samuel Mills and Reuben Rockwell were appointed a committee to confer with the Baptists as to the disposition of the surplus highway and meeting house parade land.

On April 28, 1797, the Baptist Society held a meeting to consider the proposals of the "Presbyterian order," and a special committee was appointed to assist Elder Babcock in demanding his right to the ministerial land. This was the fifth meeting the Baptists had held regarding this much mooted question and was the last.

Soon afterward the ministerial lot was sold and the parsonage lot of 100 acres was disposed of on a long lease by the Society, it being agreed the proceeds should be placed in a fund, the income to be used toward the payment of the minister's salary. The parsonage lot was sold at auction for \$15.57 per acre and the ministerial lot for \$12.21 per acre, making a total of \$2,286.17.

On September 21, 1795, the town had voted to sell the land not needed for highways and the part of the parade lot which was not included in the old cemetery, the proceeds to be placed in a fund, the income to be divided annually among the several church denominations, according to their respective property lists. This land was sold for \$1,678. The proceeds of this fund by the last annual town report (1934) were divided as follows: Colebrook Congregational Church, \$41.09; North Colebrook Baptist Church, \$11.12; South Colebrook Baptist Church, \$13.25; Colebrook River Methodist Church, \$12.58.

CHAPTER XIX

Rev. Jonathan Edwards, Jr., D.D., First Pastor

The people of Colebrook were fortunate in choosing their first pastor. After 14 years of dissension they had finally become united, but they needed to lead them, a man of strong character and ability who could command their highest respect, a man of faith and vision, with a firm hand, tempered with patience and diplomacy.

On April 20, 1795, the meeting house having been completed sufficiently so that services could be held in it, the Colebrook society was ready to employ a minister. A vote was taken to raise two pence on the pound on the grand list to be paid within 100 days for "hiring preaching." Four weeks and a day later Rev. Dr. Jonathan Edwards, Jr., was dismissed as pastor of the White Haven Congregational church in New Haven, which he had served 27 years. He was a graduate and former teacher of Princeton College, from which he had received the degree of D. D.; had been an associate member of the faculty of Yale College and was a prominent scholar and theologian. His father, Rev. Dr. Jonathan Edwards, Sr., had been a missionary to the Stockbridge Indians, a former president of Princeton and one of the greatest theological writers in history.

As soon as Dr. Edwards was through at the White Haven church he received an invitation, among others, to preach in Colebrook and did so three Sundays in June, once in July and four Sundays in September. During that September he delivered a lecture at the Yale commencement on the "Immortality of the Soul," and attended a meeting of the Litchfield South Association which had licensed him to preach 29 years before. Sunday, October 4, Dr. Edwards is believed to have preached at Colebrook again, for the next day the Colebrook Ecclesiastical society held a meeting and voted: "That a committee be chosen and make application to him to know what terms he would settle among them in the ministry."

Some of the little band of worshippers in Colebrook had known three generations of the Edwards family, for Dr. Edwards' grandfather, Rev. Timothy Edwards, had been pastor for 60 years at Windsor which town had laid out Colebrook. The elder Edwards had baptised and received many of these people into his church. He died only a decade before they had left to settle Colebrook. They had naturally followed the careers of the son and grandson. Another tie which influenced

the church in considering Dr. Edwards was that his aunt, Mary Pierpont Russell, daughter of Rev. James Pierpont, of New Haven, and wife of Rev. William Russell, of Middletown, was the aunt by marriage of Nathaniel Russell, a leading member of the Colebrook church, son of Rev. Daniel Russell, of Rocky Hill, and the two families were intimate.

The Colebrook committee was made up of Samuel Mills, who was later chosen deacon but who did not serve, Dr. Ephraim Bidwell, soon elected deacon, Elijah Rockwell, Esq., Nathaniel Russell, Enos Sage and Stephen Skinner. All but the last were members of the church, and the wives of all six were members. October 12, the society voted to pay Dr. Edwards 100 pounds annually and give him firewood. The salary was to be paid partly in produce to the amount of 20 pounds, the price to rise and fall as the prices of beef, pork, wheat, rice and corn might vary from year to year. November 30, the salary proposed was reduced to 90 pounds, 10 pounds less than he had received for 27 years, and on that day he was given a unanimous call.

The North Consociation of Litchfield was convened at Colebrook for the installation of Dr. Edwards on December 30 and 31, 1795, with 19 ministers and 15 delegates present. Rev. Dr. Daniel Farrand, for 50 years pastor at South Canaan, of whom it was said, "he was much valued as a peace maker and adviser among the neighboring churches," was moderator. The scribe was Rev. Mr. Robbins, who was installed first pastor in Norfolk 34 years before. It is related that at the beginning of the examination of Dr. Edwards, Mr. Robbins, who had known the candidate for a third of a century and was familiar with his theological writings as well as those of his distinguished father, said, "Well, brethren, the sea is before you, now dive, dive!" The council was fully satisfied with the candidate. It was voted, on motion of the Colebrook church, that it be admitted a consociated church with the Consociation.

The next morning at 9 o'clock, the last day of the year, the council proceeded to the new meeting house for the installation service at which the church members and townspeople were present. It was a memorable day in the history of Colebrook! Father Mills, pastor at Tarringford, 1769 to 1843, the father of the organizer of the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions, offered the opening prayer; Rev. Benjamin Trumbull, pastor of the North Haven Church, 1760 to 1820, preached the sermon; Dr. Farrand gave the installing prayer; Chaplain Robbins delivered the charge; Rev. Peter Starr, pastor at Warren, 1772 to 1829, extended the right hand of fellowship; Rev. Joshua Knapp, first pastor at Winchester,

offered the concluding prayer; and Rev. Asahel Hooker, who had a theological school in Goshen, acted as register. Dr. Trumbull during his sermon told Dr. Edwards "to his face" that God had given him great talents.

Born at Northampton, Mass., May 26, 1745, Jonathan Edwards, Jr. went with his father's family to Stockbridge at the age of six years and attended school where there were so few whites compared to the Indians that, it is said, he was in danger of forgetting the English tongue. He retained a knowledge of the Indian language through life. He studied theology at Bethlehem with Dr. Joseph Belamy, a theologian of great eminence. Dr. Edwards was an uncle of Aaron Burr, the distinguished soldier of the Revolution, lawyer and statesman, who was then a United States senator and soon to be vice-president of the United States. Why a man of such distinction as Dr. Edwards, who had served one of the most prominent churches in New Haven, came up to the sparsely settled town of Colebrook is explained by his grandson, Rev. Dr. Tryon Edwards, who said: "His numerous parochial duties, his many public calls and services and his close application to study at New Haven had much impaired his health and rendered relaxation and rest indispensibly necessary to him. At Colebrook his labors were less arduous and his residence was rendered most pleasant by the uninterrupted harmony and affection that subsisted between himself and the people and, as a consequence of both, his health became more firmly established than it had been for years. Here his time was devoted as usual to his favorite studies, to his somewhat extensive correspondence which he had long carried on with learned men in this country and Europe and to his ministerial duties. His recreation was the superintendence of a small farm. Here he expected and intended to have spent the remainder of his days."

It was said of him: "As a preacher of profoundly theological sermons he was almost unrivaled. In particular he was a Hopkinsian; indeed, the founder of the Hopkinsian school more than Hopkins himself. He was the first to state and defend those more rational and philosophical as well as more spiritual views of the atonement which were generally adopted through New England and by a large part of the Presbyterian Church of the United States. As a preacher he was undoubtedly inferior to his father. He had little of that powerful imagination of his father but as a theologian he was equal to his father if not superior. He had some decided improvements on his father's theology. He was in discussion more clear in thought and style and equally acute and logical."

At Yale the students had nicknamed him "Old Hand Recte," because of his strictness. President Washington, passing through Connecticut, spent Sunday, October 18, 1789, in New Haven, and it was arranged for him to attend Dr. Edwards' church in the afternoon. The church was filled. Imagine the feeling of his friends when Dr. Edwards in announcing his text, "A wise son maketh a glad father," said, "I shall direct my remarks principally to the children in the gallery." "He thought," said one, "the services of the sanctity of the King of Kings should not be changed on account of the entrance of an earthly magistrate."

Dr. Edwards published his greatest theological book, "Liberty and Necessity," during his second year in Colebrook. He drew up a constitution for a state missionary society, which was approved by the Litchfield Ministerial Association at South Canaan June, 1798, and was adopted by the state association at Hebron. The object was to Christianize the heathen in North America and promote Christian knowledge in new settlements in the United States. The Colebrook church gave \$100.67 for this cause in the next six years. He befriended Thomas Robbins of Norfolk, who preached after that for forty-six years and was librarian of the Connecticut Historical Society for ten years.

The Colebrook church was organized in 1795 with twenty-two members, nine men and thirteen women. Six soon removed from town, and several died, but ten lived thereafter an average of twenty-nine years, one nearly forty-seven years. The members were: Daniel Alcox, died 1805, aged sixty-seven, and Elizabeth Alcox (Norton), removed before 1817; Samuel and Wealthy Allen; Anna Rockwell Bass, died in 1819, aged seventy-seven, widow of Nathan, who died in the Revolutionary War; Epaphras Bidwell, M. D., elected deacon, and Margaret Bidwell, who moved away in 1797, came back in 1799 and later moved away again; John Burr; Isaac and Elizabeth Carrier; Margaret Chamberlain, grandmother of Governor Abiram Chamberlain; Margaret Eno; Hannah Mather; Elijah Rockwell, town clerk and justice, died 1842, aged ninety-seven, and Lucy Wright Rockwell, his wife, daughter of Capt. John Wright of Winsted, died 1830, aged seventy-three, and of whom, though she lived two miles from church, it was said: "It must be a very stormy Sabbath that kept Lucy from meeting"; Hepzibah Pratt Rockwell, wife of Capt. Samuel Rockwell, died 1816, aged eighty-four (see reference elsewhere); Nathaniel Russell, died 1810, aged sixty-nine, and Elizabeth Russell, died 1819, aged sixty-seven, who lived over the town line in Winchester; Roger Stillman, died

1832, aged seventy-eight, and Mehitabel Hurd Stillman, died 1828, aged seventy-one, who had five sons and five daughters, of whom nine became members and two were deacons; Moses Wright, deacon, died 1822, aged ninety, who, before the church was organized, rode on horseback to the Winsted church on Wallen's Hill; and Thankful Norton Wright, died 1821, aged seventy-nine.

In the spring of 1799 a special religious interest was awakened in Colebrook, and during the year twenty-seven new members were received into the church, making the membership sixty, representing about fifty-three families. "By piety, prudence and faithful labors of Dr. Edwards this church was happily built up. His ministerial labors were blessed to his people," wrote Dr. Chauncey Lee, later.

In his fourth year, when Dr. Edwards had become well settled in his work, "an unexpected call of Providence broke in upon his plans," wrote Dr. Tryon Edwards, "and lead him away from his pleasant and favorite abode to new scenes of duty and usefulness." Sunday, June 2, 1799, Dr. Edwards informed his church he had received a call to the presidency of Union College at Schenectady, N. Y., and, though a protest was made, the Litchfield North Association decided it was his duty to accept the call. During his farewell sermon, July 14, 1799, he gave this kindly warning: "You have heard what has been said concerning the necessity of unanimity and peace among yourselves and I daresay you realize it. Formerly you experienced the ill effects of divisions. Let thus your experience warn and guard you against every thing of the like in the future. Let me beseech you to withstand the beginning of dissension. It is like letting out of water. Once let out it is hard to be stopped again and the longer it runs the deeper and wider channel it wears. Therefore, leave off contention before it be meddled with. Your union among yourselves as well as your kind treatment of me since I have been connected with you has been a source of happiness to me."

About the time of Dr. Edwards' call to the presidency of Union College he had a bad fall from his horse in Colebrook and it was feared he had concussion of the brain. His arrival at Schenectady was celebrated by both the students and citizens. He died two years later, August 1, 1801, as the result of overwork. Dr. Edwards' first wife, Mary Porter, mother of his three children, was thrown from a chaise into a stream in New Haven and was drowned in 1782. His second wife was Mary Sabin, whom he married in 1783. His daughter, Mary, married James Jauncey Hoyt, son of Rev. Benjamin Hait of Union, N. J., the son changing his name at

his marriage much to the displeasure of his family. They lived on the farm in Colebrook on the North road, which had been Dr. Edwards'. Mrs. Hoyt continued to live there after her husband's death in 1812, until 1847 when she moved to Union, N. J., where she died in 1864.

CHAPTER XX

Rev. Chauncey Lee, D.D.; The Longest Pastorate

Colebrook was fortunate a second time in securing a pastor of marked ability to take up the work so briefly but so well begun by Dr. Edwards. Three months after Dr. Edwards preached his farewell sermon, Rev. Chauncey Lee, of Salisbury, began his pastoral work in Colebrook and served the people there for more than twenty-eight years, having the longest and most successful pastorate the church was to enjoy. "The period of Dr. Lee's ministry," wrote Reuben Rockwell, "was probably the most prosperous in the history of the town. There were large families of the Puritan stock and many accessions to the church."

Dr. Lee was the son of Rev. Jonathan Lee who was the only settled minister in Salisbury for forty-four years, from 1744 to 1788, and it was there Chauncey Lee was born, November 9, 1763. He was a versatile man of more than usual ability as a pastor, author and poet. Dr. Arthur Goodenough wrote: "Outside the pulpit Dr. Lee was irrepressibly humorous but these sermons gave no indication of it. His wife was said to have made the remark that when she saw him outside the pulpit she often thought that he ought never to go into it, and that when she listened to him in the pulpit, it seemed as if he ought to stay there always."

He was prepared for Yale College by his father during the stirring times of the Revolutionary War when the mines and furnaces at Salisbury were being operated at full blast making cannon and shells for the army and navy. He was graduated from Yale in 1784, took up the study of law and was admitted to the Litchfield County Bar in 1787. The same year he opened an office in Salisbury and married Abigail Stanton, aged eighteen. But the legal profession proved distasteful to him. He consulted the venerable Rev. Dr. Farrand of Canaan about entering the ministry. The latter said to him: "I had rather be a faithful minister of the Lord Jesus Christ than to be the crowned potentate of all the kingdoms of the world." Accepting the advice, he studied theology in Stockbridge, Mass. and was licensed to preach in 1789. His father had died the previous year and though he supplied in Salisbury he did not encourage a call there. He was ordained in 1790 at Sunderland, Vt. Seven years later he resigned because of inadequate support. He taught school at

Lansingburg, N. Y. in 1798 and published a new decimal arithmetic. He preached for a year at Hudson, N. Y., moving to Salisbury soon after Dr. Edwards left Colebrook. During October he received several members into the Colebrook church. He accepted a call to become pastor January 1, 1800, at a salary of 100 pounds, and was installed on February 12. Rev. Ephraim Judson of Sheffield, Mass., preached the sermon, Rev. Ami Robbins of Norfolk offered the prayer, Father Mills of Torrington gave the charge and Rev. Publius Booge of Winchester gave the right hand of fellowship. Mr. Lee was received into the Litchfield North Association in June when Dr. Edwards, whom he knew at Yale, preached the sermon, and he was admitted to the Consociation at Winchester in May, 1801, and gave the right hand of fellowship to their new pastor, Rev. Archibald Bassett. At this meeting regulations were accepted for the guidance of churches in the more effectual religious instruction of children and youth.

The Colebrook church in 1800 had fifty members, nineteen males and thirty-one females. Mr. Lee received about a score more in 1801, including members of the Rockwell, Crissey, Stillman, Cowles, Robbins, Corbin, Sackett, Sage, Phelps and Alling families. Soon the great exodus of people to New York State began and Colebrook suffered with the adjoining towns. Among the members who moved was Hezekiah Owen whose son, John Jason Owen, a native of Colebrook, became a distinguished Biblical commentator. The same year the family of Samuel Cowles, Jr., moved into Colebrook. A son, Dr. Henry Cowles, became a distinguished professor at Oberlin, an editor and author of a commentary on the Bible published in sixteen volumes.

In October, 1804, action was taken to repair the meeting house, "plaister and fitting the building so that the snow might not drive in."

The minister suffered a severe loss October 20, 1805 in the death of his wife Abigail who left three children, the oldest thirteen years. The depth of his grief may be judged by his publication the following year of "The Trial of Virtue," a poetical paraphrase of the Book of Job, on the passage "I know that my Redeemer Liveth," etc.:

"Yet, brighter worlds my darkest hours illume
My faith soars high and looks beyond the tomb,
Nor rocks, nor sculptured brass shall long endure
But covenant mercy stands forever sure.
"This truth I know, this all my comfort gives;
My Savior, God; my blest Redeemer lives.
At the last day upon this earth shall stand

The sleeping dead, awake at His command.
 "Then death shall die—the grave its prey restore
 The gnawing worm on flesh shall feed no more,
 My mouldered dust to life and glory rise
 And hail my Savior with rejoicing eyes.
 "Enrapturing thought; these eyes now filled with tears
 My God shall see; Adieu to all my fears!"

Rev. Thomas Robbins said of this poem: "I think it one of the best poems ever published in this country." Mr. Lee often read a poem or delivered an address at important gatherings. The Ministerial Association met with him September 7, 1808, and talked about raising money to educate pious young men for the ministry.

That fall the society voted to resume the plan of seating or "dignifying the meeting house." Five of the committee were Stillmans who had come from Wethersfield where the custom was in practice. The "dignifying was based on five points: Dignity of descent; position of public trust; pious disposition and behaviour; estate; peculiar serviceableness of any kind." After six years the custom of selling the pews was resumed for ten years.

In December, 1808, Mr. Lee went on an 800-mile missionary tour to Chittenden County, Vermont. He delivered fifty sermons, attended conferences and performed regular pastoral work. He felt that he had accomplished much by the journey. His salary was increased to \$400 in 1810 and that year he delivered "the able and brilliant oration" at the Fourth of July celebration at Winchester when the four-pounder war canon, now at the Winchester Historical Society home, was fired after each toast.

Three months later Deacon Elijah Grant and family moved to Mill Brook, Colebrook, from Norfolk and became prominent citizens of the town. A descendant still owns the old homestead on the Winsted-Norfolk road. In 1810 and 1811 Mr. Lee was asked to preach at Colebrook River four Sabbaths in the year. In the latter year, Reuben Rockwell and Daniel Stillman succeeded Moses Wright and Samuel Cowles as deacons. Cheesemaking, one of the important industries of Colebrook, was beginning to interfere seriously with Sabbath observance so that at a meeting of the Conso-ciation in Winsted, September 25, 1811, it was voted that it was not lawful to do anything toward making cheese on the Sabbath when a partial loss must be sustained.

At the Winsted meeting an advanced step was taken in temperance reform. "As intemperance prevails and intemperance is increasing" it was recorded, "voted, to exclude

wine and all ardent spirits from our meetings and that we use our influence to discontinue their use in our families and in our friendly visits; ministers to preach particularly on this subject to their congregations." Recommendations included sermons on the subject of temperance by Dr. Rush and Rev. Ebenezer Porter, that societies be organized to counteract intemperance, and that the state temperance laws be enforced. A committee was appointed to correspond with similar societies on the subject.

The year 1812, the meeting house was greatly improved. The shingles were turned and painted, the sides of the church were newly covered and painted, the interior was painted, a steeple was added and the purchase of a bell authorized. The committee appointed to decide upon the style of the steeple consisted of Capt. Swift, Reuben Rockwell, Samuel Mills, Roger Stillman and Amos Tolles. A subscription to raise \$240 for a bell was started. The bell that was purchased was not satisfactory, and it was sent back to Hartford for another. Plans were adopted for individuals to build ten "Horse Houses," each of uniform size eight by sixteen feet, west of and running southward from the church, eighty-four feet from Reuben Rockwell's.

Mr. Lee attended a meeting of the Association at Goshen, September 29, 1812, when Dr. Lyman Beecher, who had recently come to Litchfield, became a member and preached the sermon, taking for his text "As I live, saith the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked." The following day a vote was taken to sustain the Consociation in its action at Winsted against the intemperate use of ardent spirits. Two years later Dr. Beecher preached his famous sermons on temperance.

A dozen or more members joined the Colebrook church in 1813. That year, on May 13, Mr. Lee was invited to preach the sermon before the General Assembly and Governor and a large number of people in Hartford, and on November 2 he preached the funeral sermon of Rev. Ammi R. Robbins, for fifty-two years the beloved pastor at Norfolk.

The minister's salary was increased to \$500 in 1814, and that year, October 11, Mr. Lee and Deacon Reuben Rockwell as delegate attended a meeting of the Consociation at New Hartford, where it was voted to pay for the education of three Hawaiian Islanders, Henry Obookiah, Thomas Hoopoo and William Turnoc. These young men attended Col. James Morris' Academy at Morris and the Mission School in Cornwall. In 1815, called the "Sabbathical year," as it began and ended with a Sabbath, came the great revival. Mr. Lee wrote

there was a general inattendance to divine things. A church meeting was held and it was agreed to unite in a solemn act of public humiliation and confession for their past unfaithfulness and neglect of duty. Religion became the great and almost only subject of conversation among all classes. Mr. Lee said his time when not attending meetings was constantly employed in visiting, conversing and praying with families. There were 172 converts and hardly one in ten was over forty years old. Later he wrote: "How humbling that this should be followed by years of backsliding."

The Union Church was built at Colebrook River in 1816. The Association and Consociation met at Colebrook September 30, 1817, when Rev. Ralph Emerson, who succeeded the late Rev. Ammi Robbins at Norfolk, was present. He married Eliza Rockwell, eldest child of Martin Rockwell, a member of Mr. Lee's church. Rev. Dr. Emerson remained in Norfolk until 1829 when he accepted an appointment to the professorship of Ecclesiastical History and Pastoral Theology in Andover Theological Seminary, which he filled "with honor and usefulness" for twenty-five years. He resided at Newburyport, Mass. for five years, busy with literary pursuits, and in 1859 removed with his family to Rockford, Illinois.

Mr. Lee's second wife, Olive Harrison Lee, died January 5, 1818, aged forty-three, leaving three children. In the fall of that year the Colebrook Church Charitable Society was organized to aid the missionary cause, each member to contribute money or clothing, and a collector was appointed in each school district. From \$50 to \$70 was raised each year for four years to help young men study for the ministry. Mr. Lee married his third wife, Mrs. Lucia Carrington, October 1, 1818. His eldest son, Chauncey Graham Lee, a graduate of Middlebury College, was licensed to preach by the Association, September 26, 1820, and served three pastorates in this state and taught at the East Windsor Theological Seminary.

Theron Rockwell, Henry Cowles and Elijah Grant were three of the twenty-two members who joined the church in September, 1821. They all became men of prominence. A case of church discipline arose in 1823 which, wrote Rev. Benjamin Dean, "in their effects were baneful and nearly as long-lived as the original church site variance," and, he added, "these unholy tempers of our fathers which are buried, let us not unearth." Mr. Lee published a volume of his revival sermons in January, 1823, and soon afterward a collection of hymns in which there were hymns to be sung at the opening and closing of Sabbath school. Columbia College conferred the degree of Doctor of Divinity upon Mr. Lee in 1823.

It is believed the first Sunday school was begun in Colebrook in the summer of 1822. Each class occupied a box pew. One of the teachers was Kizia Filley Mills. Peter Corbin, who was born in 1808, remembered attending a Sunday school for boys between services in the house next north of the church. The minister's daughter, Juliette Lee, remembered teaching Sunday school before 1827 when she left the town. There were twenty scholars, mostly young people. Miss Elizabeth Rockwell began teaching in Sunday school when she was fifteen years of age in 1827.

The Society voted to put stoves in the meeting house October 2, 1826, which was after many churches had done so. The minister's daughter said the reason for the delay was because her father was averse to stoves, imagining he could not breathe stove air, much less preach in it. Reuben Rockwell said it fell to him at the very earliest to feed one of these fires in one of the square pews, putting in wood as quietly as possible at the singing of the second hymn.

Dr. Lee fitted many young men for college. His daughter said it was her father's favorite employment to impart instruction. The young people of Colebrook at that time, both male and female, were of a high order of intellect. She seldom remembered a time her father was without pupils. He had a weekly class, the Catechetical Society, in the schoolhouse. A partial list of young people who grew up under Dr. Lee's ministry included college graduates or ministers, Henry. John Phelps and James Cowles. Elijah, Joel and John Grant. Chauncey G. Lee, William H. Gilbert, Selah B. Treat, Leumas H. Pease, Charles, Edward and Julius H. Rockwell, James W. Robbins; ministers' wives, Eliza and Mary Ann Cowles, Elizabeth and Mary Z. Grant. Lucia Carrington, Jerusha Gilbert, Eliza, Susan and Rhoda Rockwell, Sally Whiting; physicians, William Carrington, Darwin, Luman and Mary Stillman; physicians' wives, Abigail and Philomena Marshall, Juliette Lee Dorrance; others, Reuben, Henry and Elizabeth = Aunt. Libbus Rockwell.

"Beginning in 1825 there were trying cases of church discipline," wrote Mr. Dean. Fifteen members were received in May, 1827, which caused Dr. Lee to write, "Laus Deo." Two of them married physicians, one became a missionary and one a minister. Soon after this, two members were excommunicated for drunkenness. Meanwhile, there were active efforts to have Dr. Lee resign. He preached his farewell sermon the first Sunday in February, 1828, after preaching there 1,500 Sabbaths. In speaking of his ministry, he added: "Notice His kindness in your civil interests and temporal enjoyments.

Many of you were born since the commencement of my ministry but some of you can compare the past with your present improved state. God hath blessed the labour of your hands and given you 'power to get wealth.' Your forests have become fruitful fields and your impassable ways pleasant roads of travel. You have been distinguished by general health. Few in proportion to your population have been called away by death, and these mostly were the aged who had fulfilled their days." He reminded them that when he took charge of the church "it was truly a little feeble band" of forty-nine members. Nearly 400 had been added to the membership, and after diminutions by deaths and removals there remained about 170 members. After asking them to accept his pledge of his kind affectionate remembrance, and the assurance of his continued regard for the welfare of the church and society he warned them: "Shun as you would the pestilence that restless spirit of innovation and change of enthusiasm and blind zeal, which is now spreading through our country separating pastors from their churches and laying waste some of the fairest fields of Zion."

CHAPTER XXI

Tense Religious Period; Colebrook Pastor in Abolition Work

After a pastorate covering a whole generation it was a new experience for the people of Colebrook to have to go hunting for a new pastor. Dr. Lee had been a leader in the community so long that he had been looked upon as a fixture. Many had been baptised and received their entire religious training under him. He had prepared several for college and he was such a good hearted and jovial man it must have been a heavy tug at the heart strings for many to have him leave.

In the next decade the church was not to be so fortunate in keeping a minister, for calls were extended to three and the two who accepted remained less than six years. But the church was much favored in the men it chose, for the religious life of the community was kept up to a high level.

Several months after Dr. Lee's dismissal, the church, on September 12, 1828, gave a unanimous call to Rev. Chester Colton to become its pastor. It was anticipated that the pastorate should terminate upon the church giving him a six months' notice, he to have the same privilege. He declined the call as he evidently disliked the terms. He had served in his present pastorate eleven and one-half years, where it is said he was loved and honored. He went to Old Lyme where he was pastor for another period of eleven years and after that was pastor at North Goshen for five years.

A year later, October 12, 1829, the society was instructed to employ a candidate with a view to settling a pastor and on February 5, 1830, the church and society extended a call to Rev. Azariah Clark who had closed his work two months before as pastor of the Presbyterian church at Canaan, N. Y., where he had labored for twenty-three years. Canaan was his first pastorate and he had left under peculiar circumstances. The church there had decided to build a new meeting house but the members were unable to agree upon a site, which Colebrook people could heartily appreciate. The Canaan church became divided and the people finally built two churches, each organization giving Mr. Clark a call. It is said he loved each equally well and wisely decided not to accept either. His salary at Colebrook was \$500, and his engagement was to terminate upon six month's notice by either church or pastor. Rev. Mr. Clark was the second of the nineteen children of

Oliver Clark and Phebe Parsons and a grandson of Phebe Bartlett, whose conversion at four years of age is described by the elder President Edwards in his "Surprising Conversions." Mr. Clark's mother died when he was young and he was adopted by his uncle. He was graduated at Williams College in 1805 and studied for the ministry with Dr. Alvan Hyde of Lee, Mass. The day he was called to Colebrook seven joined the society. The church record says, "he was a conciliating, pious and faithful minister; forty-six were added to the church during his ministry here and the union and harmony of the church and society greatly promoted." He was installed March 10, 1830. The year following was marked by tense religious zeal. A common inquiry was: "What shall I do to be saved?" Amusements were laid aside and parties deferred. Meetings were held somewhere every day or evening for old and young. A morning prayer meeting was steadily held at the Center. Rev. Thomas Robbins, writing in August, said: Rev. Mr. Clark preached at the South End, Norfolk, "the congregation very solemn." They were having a four days' meeting at Norfolk, preceded by a day of fasting and prayer, some attending from Colebrook. Fifteen joined the Colebrook Church in September and seven in November, including four young men. Mr. Clark held some preaching services in the southwest schoolhouse in Mill Brook. James Cowles, a convert and afterwards a college graduate, said: "He showed more warmth, more personal interest in the religious character of his young people than we were brought up to expect in clergymen." After a short illness, Mr. Clark died October 16, 1853, in the parsonage at the junction of the North Colebrook and Beach Hill roads. His wife, Sarah Aylesworth, fourth of thirteen children and mother of six, died September 5, 1867, aged eighty-seven.

January 8, 1833, Rev. Edward Royal Tyler of Middletown was called to the Colebrook church at a salary of \$700. He was born at Guilford, Vermont, August 3, 1800, son of Chief Justice Royal Tyler; was graduated at Yale in 1825, five Colebrook boys attending college at the same time, James W. Robbins, '22, Charles and Julius Rockwell, Henry and John Phelps Cowles, '26.

Rev. Mr. Tyler instituted the Colebrook River Branch church January 9, 1834, with about thirty members, nine of whom were received that day. On September 7, Abiram Chamberlain was set apart as deacon of the River Branch by prayer and the imposition of hands. He also officiated at the Center. That same month, on the 30th, the Litchfield Association met at Colebrook and planned for the County Home Missionary

and Tract Societies, auxiliary of the national societies. There were thirty additions to the church that year. The next spring there came a sudden break in Mr. Tyler's pastorate. Without notice he received word that on April 25, 1836, he had been elected lecturer of the American Anti-Slavery Society, "unsought and unexpected by him."

The society was organized in 1833 by William Lloyd Garrison who was mobbed in Boston in 1835, two years after he had published the *Liberator*. Litchfield County was deeply interested in the Abolition movement. Bitter feeling was engendered on both sides of this great question. The following January the Litchfield County Anti-Slavery Society was organized as a branch of the national society, at Torrington, by delegates from many towns after the meeting had been broken up in Torrington by a mob. Some of the people were opposed to the slavery agitation and did not take kindly to Mr. Tyler's proposal to leave them.

Mr. Tyler asked the church to convene the Consociation to dismiss him, saying: "I make the request at the sacrifice of ease, of income and probably of reputation, on what I deem to be a call to duty. The system of American slavery which in my opinion is unjust, iniquitous and impolitic in the highest degree must be abolished either by a bloody revolution or by the peaceable and kind influence of a sound moral sentiment in the free states operating to awaken the slumbering conscience of slaveholders, and to stamp the holding of men in involuntary and iniquitous servitude with merited infamy. Judging from known principles of human nature, I cannot but think that American slavery will not long survive the day when every reputable man in the free states shall declare it sinful and disgraceful. If so, the victory over this stupendous and terrific system of injustice and bad policy is to be achieved by effecting this change in their views and treatments of the subject. With this conviction I feel I should be recreant to the cause of religion and humanity and of patriotism, were I to shrink from bearing a part, with those heroic and self-denying men whom God has raised up for such a time as this. I hope that, viewing the subject thus, you will cheerfully make the sacrifice of my services, if it is any, to the glory of God, to the good of fettered and dumb and to the salvation of our Country."

The church, on April 25, 1836, in respect to Mr. Tyler's desire and expectation of greater usefulness as a lecturer, said it "would give no opinion." On the same day the society recorded, "that as the church and society are happily united in Mr. Tyler and the prospects of his continued usefulness,

were he to remain our minister, are favorable we cannot contemplate the dissolution of the pastoral relation but with deep regret." He was dismissed June 14, 1836, by the Consociation at New Hartford. During his pastorate of three and one quarter years fifty-six members were received. He lectured for about a year and a half, was then editor of the Connecticut Observer for four years and of the New Englander for five years and published other pamphlets, etc. He was treasurer of the state association for six years and did valiant service for the cause of Abolition. His farewell sermon was on the evil of slavery. His second wife was Sarah Ann Boardman of Middletown. They had six children, Amelia taught at Hampton Institute, William was a clerk in the Treasury Department, and a director of the Central Union Mission of Washington, D. C.; Elizabeth, born in Colebrook, married Capt. Cornelius C. Billings who was killed in the Battle of the Wilderness; George was at the Naval Academy at Newport during the war and became a lieutenant-commander; Edward was a lawyer and became an examiner in the patent office. Mr. Tyler died September 28, 1848, and Mrs. Tyler forty-three years later on April 3, 1891.

Following Mr. Tyler's dismissal the Colebrook church was without a pastor for two years and little progress was made. In the fall of 1837, Rev. John M. Lewis was called but ten days later the vote was rescinded. However, he preached in Colebrook that winter.

CHAPTER XXII

Building the Present Congregational Church

The fifth pastor was Rev. Eaton Ives of New Haven, not yet twenty-nine of age, who was called by the Colebrook church to his first pastorate July 3, 1838, and was ordained there September 25, the only minister to have that honor in that church. The salary was \$600. In his acceptance, he said: "The pastors who have formerly gone out and in among you have entered upon the duties here with the advantage of previous experience. The duties of this office are to me untried, and destitute of the wisdom which experience alone can give. I shall rely much upon your forbearance and that charity which suffereth long and is kind." Mr. Ives was born at New Haven, December 12, 1809; at seven he was left fatherless, learned the printer's trade, was converted and decided to study for the ministry at 21 and supported himself during seven years of study at a total cost of \$1,230, attending Yale College and Divinity School. Less than a month after his ordination, agitation was begun for a new meeting house. It is said Mr. Ives called attention to the dilapidated condition of the old church. A committee consisting of Martin Rockwell, Jonathan Edwards Hoyt, Calvin Sage, Jonathan Stillman and Deacon Elijah Grant was appointed to remodel the old church if thought best, but a week later they were requested to make out a list based on the town tax list and secure subscriptions from each member of the society towards a new church estimated to cost \$4,000, and report. Three years later the society appointed a committee for each school district to learn the sentiment regarding the building of a new church.

Meantime, a committee appointed to look into the state of the church reported on July 5, 1839, a want of life in the members of the church, a want of brotherly love, a want of faithful brotherly watchfulness and that some lived in habitual neglect of covenant duties.

January 10, 1842, everyone present at a society meeting voted in favor of building a new meeting house and a week later a majority favored the site where the church stands. February 21, it was reported \$2,329 had been subscribed and it was voted to build a church nearly like one being erected at Unionville. The building committee were Martin Rockwell, Rufus Seymour, Samuel E. Mills, William Swift and Reuben Rockwell.

Two years later there was still a debt on the church and an effort was made to reduce the minister's salary to \$500. March 2, 1846, rules were adopted requiring that the call for a church meeting should name the particular business and that five members applying to the pastor may call a meeting. Two months later Dr. William Carrington launched an attack upon the pastor at a meeting of the society, offering the following: "Resolved, that in view of existing circumstances it is the opinion of this society that the usefulness of Alfred E. Ives as our pastor is materially impaired if not absolutely at an end." The resolution was tabled for two weeks and then voted down twenty-seven to fourteen. Mr. Ives resigned April 22, 1848, owing to the contention among the members of the society, total neglect of discipline, notorious violation of the covenant and growing weakness of the society.

After leaving Colebrook, Rev. Mr. Ives was pastor nearly six years at Deerfield, Mass., and Castine, Maine, twenty-three years, served two years in the Maine House of Representatives and was trustee of the Bangor Theological Seminary twenty-six years. He was in the ministry forty-four years and died August 22, 1892, aged eighty-two.

He married Harriet Platt Stone. They had two sons, Alfred, Jr., born in Colebrook, April 20, 1844, enlisted in the Red River expedition and the siege before Port Hudson, was sunstruck and mustered out in '63, graduated at Amherst, '68, was principal of the Center High School, Meriden, seven years, then became principal of the Brooklyn Grammar School, No. 35, with 4,000 pupils, president of the Rockville Center, L. I., Savings & Loan Association, etc.

The other son, Rev. Joel Stone Ives, born in Colebrook, December 5, 1847, was graduated at Amherst, 1870, and Yale Divinity School, 1847, and was pastor at East Hampton nine years and later at Stratford.

CHAPTER XXIII

Later Ministers

During Mr. Ives' pastorate of ten years, twenty-three members had been received into the church. Several members had moved into town but more had moved away and many valuable members had died. The next six years was a trying period for the church. No one minister served the church for a whole year. Five unsuccessful calls to ministers were extended. They were Rev. J. F. Norton of Goshen, April 4, 1850; Rev. Samuel F. Bacon, Washington; Rev. James R. Mershon, December 6, 1850; Rev. S. D. Clark, August 1, 1852; Rev. David L. Ogden, April 16, 1853. The fact that the society had no parsonage seemed to be the obstacle to the ministers in accepting calls. After the invitation to Mr. Mershon, a committee was appointed to find out about a parsonage. It was proposed to form a joint stock company by the society to raise \$1,200 for a parsonage in 1852 but the plan was soon given up. When Mr. Ogden declined, four men successively refused to serve on the committee, as follows: Rufus Seymour, Peter Corbin, Calvin Sage and Edward Carrington. In May, 1854, the committee was asked to see what arrangements could be made for a parsonage. The Ebenezer North place was chosen, provided \$500 could be raised.

It was then voted to hire Rev. Archibald Geikie of Toronto, Canada, for five years if a year's salary of \$500 could be raised and a parsonage provided. Mr. Geike became pastor July 30, 1854, and ten days later it was voted to repair the parsonage on the society's credit at a cost not to exceed \$500. When the five years expired, it was voted to employ Mr. Geikie for four years more. During his ministry, thirty-five members were added to the church. Many important events took place during his pastorate, including the breaking out of the War of the Rebellion in which many from Colebrook engaged. Mr. Geikie was a hardworking, kind and lovable pastor. At the close of his work a testimonial of his faithful ministry and devotion was placed on the church records. Mr. Geikie was a Scotchman, born June 11, 1797, in Edinburgh, where he was educated and began to preach. Then he transferred to Moontown, Canada, and there built a church "figuratively and literally," giving land for a graveyard and building a little church within the enclosure in the old English style. A beautiful window has since been placed in the church in his memory. His wife died and he moved with his mother-

less daughters to Toronto, where he was pastor for some years before coming to Colebrook. Later he had a successful pastorate at East Granville, Mass., until he gave up preaching in 1870 when he went to live with his daughter, Mrs. Mary G. Adam, in Canaan, where he died July 27, 1872. Mr. Geikie had seven children, including three distinguished sons: Rev. Archibald C. Geikie, D.D., L.L.D., for thirty years pastor of St. Stephen's Presbyterian church, Bathurst, Australia; Rev. Cunningham Geikie, D.D., L.L.D., of England, author of "The Life of Christ," "Hours with the Bible," etc.; Walter Bayne Geikie, M.D., dean of Trinity Medical School, Toronto. The daughters were Mrs. Thomas Gavillier of Beaton, Ont.; Mrs. Mary G. Adam, wife of Dr. George Adam, of Canaan; Mrs. B. Fenton Holcomb of Memphis, Tenn., and Miss Catherine Geikie of Canaan.

In the fall of '63, sermons were read in the pulpit by members of the church and for several months in that and the following year there was preaching by Rev. Samuel B. Forbes of Winsted and later of Hartford. In 1864, it is **stated**, the church was financially embarrassed and it was voted to sell the parsonage but the sale was not made and the next spring when the war ended prosperity returned. The slips sold for more than ever before and the society began looking for a pastor. Four ministers were called in the next two years: Rev. Mr. Murphy, Rev. Winthrop H. Phelps, Rev. H. B. Smith and Rev. Joel Grant. November 18, 1866, Rev. Grant, son of Deacon Elijah, declined a call, but was invited to preach for six months and then for another six months.

By the efforts of George M. Carrington, judge of Probate for Winchester and Colebrook, and William P. Lawrence in soliciting funds the society was freed of debt May 4, 1868.

CHAPTER XXIV

Colebrook River

Colebrook River reached the height of its prosperity during the time the Sawyer cotton mills were in operation from the 1840's to the 1880's. This peaceful village which is the center of a large farming district, and is today remarked about for its beauty, had many industries during the past century. On June 4, 1788, the town voted to accept the survey made by the selectmen the previous fall of a road on the east side of the Main (Farmington) River. Mrs. Sarah Jones' historical sketch of New Hartford says the first turnpike through that town "ran from the dwelling house of Capt. Dudley Case (Pike place), who kept the tavern, to the Massachusetts line on the east side of the river and was called the Farmington River turnpike." The company was incorporated in 1780.

Among the early manufactories in Colebrook River was a scythe works erected by Eliphalet and Daniel Mills in 1804 or '05. They moved there from Winsted with their father, David Mills, Eliphalet had learned the trade at the Jenkins & Boyd shop in Winsted. He married Eda Hurd and Daniel married Hannah Hurd. The latter's son, Daniel H. Mills, acquired a large fortune.

Up next to the Massachusetts line, Timothy and Elihu Parsons (Persons) operated a tannery on the east bank of the river. The brothers lived across the road, Timothy in Connecticut and Elihu in Massachusetts. They did a large business tanning sheep skins. Timothy lived many years after his brother died.

On the west side of the river, north of the road leading to Mrs. Jane Carpenter's was a mill for carding wool which was run by Chauncey Perry. Sheep were raised on nearly every farm and the people took the wool to the mill and had it carded and then shipped it away or brought it home to spin it into yarn to knit stockings or weave it for sheets, underwear and other purposes.

Miss Rocelia DeWolf said that above the bridge there was a clock shop operated by Lewis & Ives quite successfully, and north of that a grist mill and a saw mill. As a little girl before 1849 she remembered going to the clock factory and getting blocks and pieces of painted glass used in the clocks, to play with.

The cotton mill was built in the 1840's by Henry Sawyer. It became a large industry employing at times as many as 100 operatives. The mill was burned down once or twice and rebuilt. Porter Carpenter was superintendent for twenty-five or thirty years. His son, George, worked in the spinning room and the latter's wife, Jane Whipple Carpenter, attended the warpers and her sister, Mary Whipple Sanford, was a weaver. The company made cotton duck, bags, belting, etc. North of the mill, Henry's brother, Charles Sawyer, operated a grist mill which was connected with the cotton mill by an overhead bridge. The cotton mill was extended later so as to include the grist mill. The Sawyer brothers first lived in two small houses west of the hill. Later Henry built a large house south of the hotel which collapsed a few years ago. The stone fence-posts were used by the D. A. R. for markers along the Old North road. The house was considered a mansion. Charles Sawyer lived south of the Union Church. The Sawyers had a blacksmith shop across the street on the bank of the river.

William Manchester had a saw mill and turning shop on Slocum Brook, where Silas Ives was killed later, and there was a silk mill, afterward a turning mill, over the state line near the DuBois farm.

Daniel Mills conducted a store on the corner north of the Tolland road which later was remodelled for a dwelling and Daniel DeWolf had a store at the same time just below across the street which burned down about eighty years ago. Henry Sawyer built the present store building. His brother-in-law, Noonan, was associated with him in the store at first and then William Tinker. Later it was conducted by George Ives and others.

There was a shoe factory for a time over the store employing several hands and Edward Smith had a tailor shop there. His widow married Thomas Spencer. Deacon Abiram Chamberlain, father of the governor, conducted a strictly temperance hotel.

Opposite the hotel was a select school, about eighty years ago, conducted by Miss Griswold. Several attended from Winsted, Colebrook Center, Beech Hill and Tolland, in all about twenty-five students. Among them were Rufus Holmes, Jane Dudley, Martha Beardsley, James Welch, Anna Rockwell, Martha Bell, Anna Moore, three of Edmund Stillman's daughters, Caroline and Julia Manchester, Cornelia Chamberlain, Jennie Sawyer and Rocelia DeWolf. Over 100 attended the public school.

The parade ground was in front of the Union Church. Loren DeWolf commanded the military company having been

commissioned captain of the Fifth Company, 21st Regiment of Infantry, April 12, 1831. The commission was issued by John S. Peters, Captain-General, and Thomas Day, Secretary of State. Capt. DeWolf had previously been commissioned sergeant in 1824, ensign in 1828 and lieutenant in 1830.

The church in those days was the center of the social life in the village.

*Paper by I. E. Manchester, of Winsted, Read at 150th
Anniversary Celebration of Town of Colebrook
in Methodist Church, Colebrook River*

I am interested to be here because I have belonged to the denomination of Methodists all my life and love its traditions and rejoice in the great strides it has made in the rewards which its followers have a right to claim in common with all religious bodies.

I am interested to be here because of the family associations which are connected with this church. My father professed religion and became a member of this church, as did two of his sisters and a cousin, later the first Mrs. Rufus E. Holmes, about the time this church was dedicated, eighty years ago. My grandfather and grandmother were among the founders of this church, and both were Sunday school teachers, my grandmother being the organizer of the school. My great-grandfather, John Manchester, a Revolutionary soldier, and his wife, Phoebe, were Methodists and both lie buried in the cemetery adjoining this church.

Another great-grandfather, Rev. Daniel Coe, whose portrait hangs here today, was a Methodist preacher and often occupied the pulpit in the old church which preceded this, which is the building next to the schoolhouse, and later remodeled into a dwelling. Daniel Coe founded two Methodist churches in this section; was a great abolitionist and temperance worker, and it was on his farm on Spencer Street in Winsted that Methodist camp meetings were first held in this section and were attended by people from Colebrook River and all the surrounding towns.

Methodism in Colebrook River closely parallels the history of the church in Winsted, for both towns have always belonged to the same conference and were on the same circuit until 1839, when the Winsted church became so large that Colebrook River was joined with Pleasant Valley, as it is today.

The introduction of Methodism in this section occurred some time before 1790, about the time Jesse Lee was ap-

pointed to the Stamford circuit, which extended up into this section and Freeborn Garretson came here from New York state and was appointed to the Litchfield circuit.

My great-great-grandfather, Rev. John Sweet, another Revolutionary soldier, father-in-law of Daniel Coe, who built several of the first houses in Winsted—one the homestead on Spencer Street in 1783—was also a Methodist preacher and was on the Winsted-Colebrook circuit for several years. He named two of his sons John and Charles Wesley and was the first Methodist to preach in Torrington, an older town than Winchester or Colebrook in its settlement. He was a preacher for more than fifty-five years. He lived to be nearly 100 years old and my father, when a lad of twelve years, was sent with him on his last preaching trips in Hartland Hollow to see that no harm came to him while driving.

The Methodists were considered invaders in the early days. The preachers and members cast aside the formalities of the old order, from which many broke away because they would not accept all the doctrines, some being what were known as "halfway covenanters." They held services in homes, barns and schoolhouses and the loud "Amen" heard from every direction in a class meeting or prayer meeting attested their earnestness and emotional spirit. My father used to say one could hear his uncle, William Manchester, who was a class leader in Colebrook River for over forty years pray and sing a mile away. He lived on the southeast corner below here and was frequently called upon to visit and pray for the sick and dying. His house was a regular Methodist headquarters.

Beginning about 1810 Methodist services were held in Colebrook River in the old Union Church, which is still standing some distance north of the church, in rotation with the Congregationalists and Baptists. The first Methodist Church was built here about 1833 and was a flourishing society. The membership reached over 100, the people coming from miles around, Tolland, Beech Hill, Eno Hill and other directions.

The new church was dedicated during the pastorate of John Selleck in 1849. My father said as a young man he climbed to the top of the steeple when it was raised. Among some of the noted Methodist preachers and elders in this district with which this church was connected in the first half of the last century were Billy Hibbard, Ebenezer Washburn, Heman Bangs and his son, Nathan, father of John Kendrick Bangs, the distinguished author and writer, editor of Harper's Weekly and Harper's Magazine; Laban Clark,

who founded Wesleyan University in 1831 at Middletown, of which Rev. Daniel Coe was steward in 1837, while his son, Jonathan Coe, my great-uncle, was a student, later the first rector of St. James' Episcopal church in Winsted. Another was Rev. Seymour Landon, who was grandfather of the late Charles L. Alvord, S. Landon Alvord, for whom he was named, and George S. Alvord of Winsted, Rev. Landon's daughter, Mary, being the wife of James R. Alvord, who founded the Empire Knife Co.

Rev. Mr. Landon was pastor at Winsted in 1847 and presiding elder of this district the next year, when this church was projected. His son, Rev. Dr. Thomas Landon, was head of the Bordentown (N. J.) Military Institute and his grandson, Col. Thomas Landon, is at the head of it now.

Another was Elbert Osborn, whose son, William B. Osborn built the house next to mine on Spencer Street. The latter was ten years a missionary in India and one of the founders of Ocean Grove campgrounds, the famous New Jersey summer resort. James J. Lawler, one of the founders and superintendent of the Winsted silk factory for nearly fifty years, who in the early seventies operated a silk mill in Colebrook River was another.

Among some of the attendants at this church back in those days were Capt. Loren DeWolf, Emory Slocum, Deacon Chamberlain, Ansel Beach, Silas Ives, Henry and Charles Sawyer, Joseph Gibbs, Dennis Bushnell, Gaius Marshall, Asa White, Nelson Manchester, Elihu and Timothy Parsons, and so on. Some were not members, but were attendants, and most of them liberal supporters. One of these was Deacon Chamberlain, who was landlord of the Colebrook River Inn, which was then a temperance hotel. His oldest son, Valentine, became a banker in New Britain and his second son, Abiram, was governor of Connecticut, 1903 to 1905, living at the time in Meriden. Both were born here.

One of the most faithful members was Capt. Loren DeWolf, who was a steward for over twenty-five years, father of Miss Rocelia DeWolf, who is now in her ninety-first year, has attended the church from her young girlhood, over eighty years, and has long been its principal supporter and treasurer. She remembers back to the time when this church was dedicated in 1849, is familiar with the affairs of the church from that time on and should be giving this address today except for her modesty. Much of my information came from her. I know personally that the Colebrook River church owes this saint of God a tremendous debt.

Capt. DeWolf was a prosperous farmer. Mrs. DeWolf prepared the elements for communion service. People went to their house to get warm and get coals for their footstoves, as the church was cold. His brother, Daniel, was the store-keeper. There were two stores, the other being run by Daniel Mills. Daniel DeWolf's store burned down and Henry Sawyer, the cotton manufacturer here for forty-five years, built a store on the old site. Later it was known as Ives & Bushnell's, then Ives & Baldwin, Ives & Baxter, and after that George Ives and Calvin B. Humphrey. Mr. Ives was a liberal supporter of the church. His father, Silas Ives, ran the saw-mill up the stream on the Tolland road and was killed by being dragged into the saw. Near this mill stood the turning mill where my father's uncles, William and John, made chairs and my grandfather, Shadrack, and his brother, Samuel, named for the Bible characters, worked before they went to the farms. Shadrack in Tolland and Samuel in Pleasant Valley, grandfather of all the Manchesters in that village.

William's son, Daniel, also one of the owners of the saw-mill and turning shop, built the house now occupied by Joseph Rowley. He was fife major of the military regiment, a fine musician and speaker and the father of Rev. Dr. Charles Manchester, who died August 20, this year, born in Colebrook River, a preacher in Ohio for about forty years and President William McKinley's pastor at Canton, preaching his funeral sermon.

There were about 100 hands employed in the cotton mill. One of the ways the Ladies' Aid society had of making money was to hem bags which were made in Sawyer's cotton mill, receiving one cent a bag.

Henry Sawyer's brother, Charles, ran the gristmill. Near the state line Elihu and Timothy Parsons had a tannery and across the river was Perry's cotton mill, where the farmers all took their wool to have it carded and then brought home to their wives to spin and weave into sheets, towels and undergarments.

Miss DeWolf remembers her mother making cloth for these purposes. All the farmers kept sheep, perhaps from twenty-five to thirty. Loren DeWolf was captain of the Fifth Company, 21st Regiment of Infantry, Connecticut, being commissioned April 12, 1831, by John S. Peters, Captain-general, and Thomas Day, Secretary of State. One day when Miss DeWolf was a little tot she saw the soldiers coming up the road at general training in their bright uniforms and, rushing to her mother and clinging to her skirts, she cried: "Mamma! mamma! The British are coming! The British are

coming!" She had heard a great deal about the British soldiers, but her mother assured her that since her father was at the head of the company she need not be alarmed.

One who used to attend the class meetings was Anson Cornwall from Hartland, who was a shouting Methodist. He was of the opinion that the people enjoyed hearing him, even if he "wasn't quite so dictionary as some," which was his way of saying it.

The first foreigner to come to Colebrook River was William Sutton, an Irishman, who went to work for Capt. DeWolf on trial for a month and stayed for many years, proving a fine workman. He sent to Ireland for his wife and daughter after three years.

I spoke of Emory Slocum of Tolland. Mrs. Slocum was a Congregationalist, so every other Sunday they would attend the Congregational Church in Tolland, coming to Colebrook River on the alternate Sundays. Then there were John and Job Spencer, brothers. Both attended the Methodist church here. One was a strong Democrat and the other as strong a Republican. They agreed on religion, but their politics would not mix.

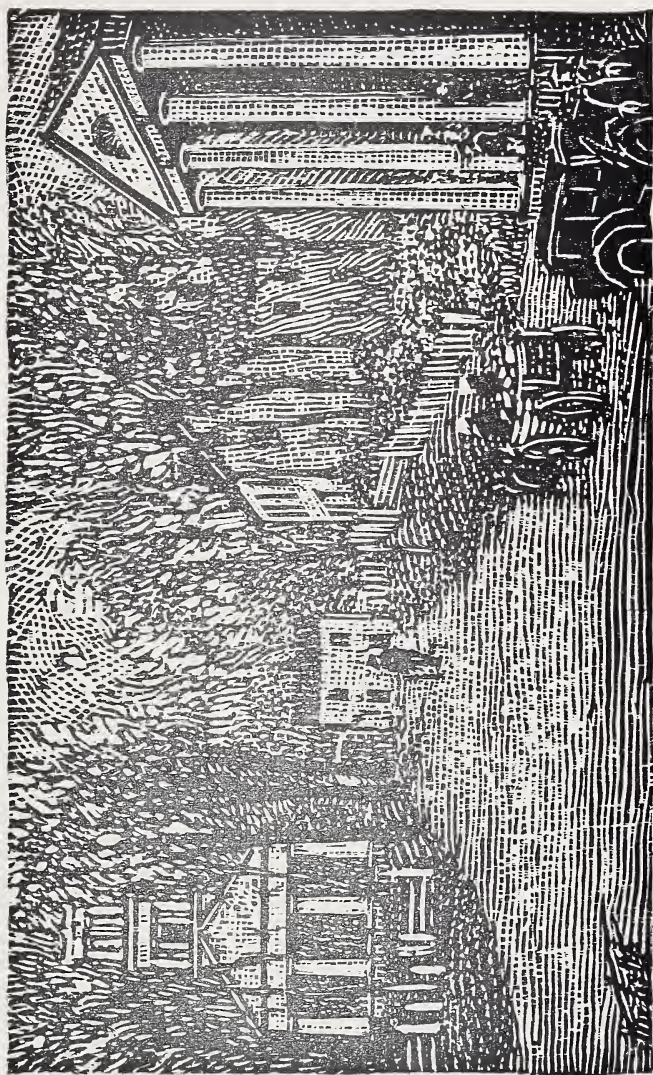
I haven't told you about my father's Aunt Sarah, who is buried in the cemetery here. She married Robert Wilcox. They had two daughters. He joined the Shakers at Tyringham, Mass., and took his family with him. Later, his wife, Sarah, came away. One daughter, Phoebe, became the head of the institution. At his sister Sarah's request, Shadrack went there in a wagon and spirited Salomy away. The Shakers sent word they had a horsewhip laid up for him if he ever appeared again. Salomy married Franklin Harvey and became the mother of five daughters, representing large families, including the Babbitts, Millards, Horigans and Adams of Winsted. A son, Robert Harvey, was killed in the Civil War.

There are scores of people of whom I have no time to tell you. The Bushnells, Marshalls, Murphys, Giggs, Gillettes, Pecks, Whites, Osborns, Mitchells, etc., nor of the forty or more pastors of this church, men like W. W. Hurd, Otis Range, the great temperance worker; E. J. Curtis, Charles Dixon, F. B. Adams, and so on; nor of the women who were faithful Sunday school superintendents, Mrs. Silas Ives, Mrs. Laura Carpenter, Mrs. Edward Whipple and others.

About thirty years ago, over \$1,000 was spent remodeling the church, putting in a new ceiling, removing the gallery, taking out the furnace, building a chimney, etc.

The influence for good which this church has had upon the community for over a century cannot be measured. It has a civilizing influence upon people who do not attend or who are indifferent. It is continually pointing to the higher things of life. A church is the greatest asset which a town can have and it is of the first and greatest interest to the people of Colebrook River that they "carry on" and give this church the support necessary to maintain it.

It is the symbol of God in our midst, and praise be to God for the devout men and women who have labored so hard and earnestly all these years in the cause of truth and righteousness. It is a heritage of which we need not be ashamed.



Colebrook Center (from wood engraving by Macowin Tuttle)

CHAPTER XXV

The Hemlock Meeting House and Robertsville

The Hemlock Cemetery and an old foundation or two at the four corners on the Still River turnpike (Colebrook River road) just north of the Winchester town line, are about all that are left to mark the site of what was once a busy section of Colebrook. In the northeast corner of the cemetery stood the Hemlock meeting house which is the name that was given to the Baptist Church of Winsted. The Society was organized June 14, 1797, and it was first planned to erect the church about a mile farther south near Wilson's or Nelson's corners but when it was finally built in 1805, the site on the four corners farther north was chosen. The movement for a Baptist Church (which undoubtedly received an impetus because Church on Wallen's Hill) began by sending an invitation to the Baptist Churches in North Colebrook, New Hartford and Saybrook to hold a council to form a new Baptist Society. The council recommended that, "The Winchester brethren put themselves under the watchful care of some Baptist Church until their numbers and gifts increased."

A meeting was held at Elisha Mallory's on Wallen's Hill, February 15, 1797, and the situation was talked over again and on June 14th a council was held and fellowship was granted to the new church Society. The next May, Josiah Smith and Mr. Mallory were appointed to procure a lot of Capt. Abijah Wilson near the bridge on the North road, east of Still River turnpike. However, the church was not built until seven years later, when it was erected in Colebrook. Meantime, there had been preaching services held intermittently. Elder A. Morse became the first pastor. The people came several miles from all directions. Among the other pastors who served the church were Elders Bellows, Talmage, Atwell, Watrous and Erastus Doty, who was pastor from 1825 to 1831 and later supplied as pastor when requested. He resided on a farm at the foot of the hill.

The present South Colebrook Baptist Church was built in 1847 through the efforts of Elder Watrous and the old church which had been abandoned was taken down in 1853 by Lucius Clarke of Winsted and used in the building occupied by Bronson's hardware store in that city. The cemetery lot was extended later to include the church site. On the corner close to the church was the district schoolhouse.

It is said one of the school masters threw a fractious boy through a window and at another time up against the ceiling. Across the road from the church was a toll gate which later was moved to the next hill south. On the corner diagonally opposite the church was a large tavern with a ballroom which burned about 1856. Next to the tavern was a store and beyond that a little shop.

The settlement in the southeast corner of Colebrook was given the name of Robertsville for Clark Roberts who built the large house in the village now owned by E. Parks Holcomb. Later the Roberts house was used for a private school known as Boyer's School for Boys. Mr. Roberts was postmaster and owned the store which was conducted for a time by his son-in-law, Orlando Hodge, who married Lydia Roberts. Clarke Roberts' first wife was Lydia Rockwell, daughter of Elihu Rockwell, youngest son of Captain Joseph Rockwell, "a man of marked character and influence, entertaining political and religious sentiments not in harmony with those of his Puritan ancestors."

It is stated that the chair factory, which was the important industry of the village for many years, was started by three men who had been employed in Lambert Hitchcock's shop in Hitchcockville (Riverton) and made use of the valuable water power afforded by Still River. Twenty-five or thirty operatives were employed. William H. Raidart was superintendent of the chair factory for about thirty years. His son, George H. Raidart, who was employed in the shop about ten years, tells of a tramp from New York who worked there for a time and was an expert in carving roses on the chair backs, many of which are in existence today. His father-in-law, Philemon Woodward, sold a great many thousands of feet of lumber for the mill. The furnishing of lumber gave work to many in the woods. The men became very expert in turning out spindles and bed posts from large pieces of wood with only their eyes to guide them. Mrs. Nellie Fleming recalls her mother being employed in the shop with others, stencilling the chair backs.

The chair shop was sold in the early eighties to A. L. Rapp's sons, Frank and Augustus, who had been engaged in the wood veneer business in New York. They added card tables to the line and conducted the factory about ten years until 1893.

Later the business was conducted for many years by Moses Camp of the Winsted mercantile firm of M. & C. J. Camp, and his associates under the name of the Union Chair Co., with its office in Winsted. The employes were allowed

to run the store. Besides wooden and cane seat chairs and rockers the company manufactured bedsteads.

Another industry in Robertsville which was conducted for nearly forty years was the manufacture of fine table butter by the Tunxis Creamery Association, which was organized in 1889 and was one of the largest in the state. Homer P. Deming was the manager for the greater part of its existence. Mr. Deming's father, Harvey Deming, a representative of one of the oldest families in that section, was a successful farmer and cattle dealer. He frequently went to New York state and drove in 200 head of cattle which were sold to the farmers in this section.

CHAPTER XXVI

The North Colebrook Baptist Church

While the Congregationalists were debating where they would locate their meeting house in Colebrook, the Baptists with their traditional zeal made deep inroads among the church-goers in the northern part of the town, gaining many adherents and building up a strong church and society. This was due largely to the indefatigable efforts of Elder Rufus Babcock, founder of the North Colebrook Baptist Church, also the South Colebrook Baptist Church at the Hemlock Cemetery (sometimes spoken of as the Winsted Baptist Church) and the Baptist Churches in North Norfolk and Newfield, Torrington.

The Colebrook Baptist Society records which are in the possession of the clerk, Carrington Phelps, of North Colebrook, state the first meeting was held September 29, 1794, at the home of Eleazer Bidwell on the old post road about a half mile above the Phelps tavern. Joseph Bidwell was moderator. It was voted "to adopt the articles drawn by order of the Baptist Church in Colebrook," presumably prepared by Elder Babcock. Joseph Bidwell, Jr., was elected clerk of the Society and a Society's committee was chosen for the year, consisting of Joseph Bidwell, Sr., Elias Kinne and William Simons, the latter also being tithing man. The committee was directed to investigate the land set apart for the first minister in Colebrook and the last Monday in September was designated as the time for holding the annual meetings.

Three months later, December 22, 1794, it was voted that Elder Babcock should move to Colebrook and proceed to sell the land laid out to the first orthodox minister in the town for 100 pounds and the Society voted to give a bond to pay the elder seventy pounds if he did not receive it from the sale of the public lands.

Elder Babcock was a native of North Stonington, where he was born April 22, 1758. He was descended in the eighth generation from James Babcock, the Puritan, who migrated from Essex, England, to Leyden, Holland, and thence to Plymouth in 1623. During the Revolutionary War, Rufus Babcock served in Capt. Timothy Moses' Company. He was called out twice. He married the captain's daughter and they had three sons, Timothy, Cyrus Giles and Rufus, Jr. Rufus, Sr., belonged to the Separate Congregational Church of Canaan, became a Baptist preacher, organized the Baptist

Church in Colebrook and was ordained the first settled minister of any denomination in the town in 1794. It was said of him: "Without any great advantages of culture, without fluency of speech or any of the graces of oratory, Elder Babcock had such native soundness and vigor of mind coupled with good sense and indefatigable industry that he was highly and deservedly esteemed, not only in his own community but by learned and intelligent ministers of other denominations."

He bought a farm of five or six hundred acres on the east side of the post road in North Colebrook of Erastus and Festus Vietz and built a large house which burned a few years ago. He built a small dam on Vietz Brook on the east side of his farm and erected a saw mill and dug a raceway leading to an overshot wheel. His principal meadow is now flooded by the Christopher Chenery pond.

Elder Babcock served the North Colebrook church for thirty-seven years until he was seventy-three years of age, supporting his family mainly by the farm and educating his two younger sons at Brown University. He continued to assist the church after his resignation and gave a house for a parsonage to the Society. He died November 4, 1842, aged nearly eighty-five years.

The Society records show a list of 183 members. At a meeting on March 31, 1797, it was voted to lease a piece of land of Joseph Bidwell at the south end of the North Colebrook parade ground "to set the meeting house on," about half a mile north of the Phelps tavern on the west side of the post road. On October 28th the Society's committee was instructed to see upon what terms the pews in "the old meeting house" in Sandisfield, Mass., could be obtained and on December 15 it was voted to purchase the pews, pulpit and gallery stairs in the Sandisfield church. August 30, 1798, it was decided to secure subscriptions in order to defray the remaining cost of the meeting house in wheat, "rie," Indian corn, oats, white beans, wool, flax, etc., by the first day of January, next. The church was used for nearly fifty years.

On January 21, 1845, a committee reported that it would cost \$1,400 to repair the old church and \$1,756 to build a new one. It was decided to build a new church. Three months later on April 28, 1845, it was voted to accept a lease from General Edward A. Phelps of the lot where the present church stands provided that if at any time a year passed without a meeting in the church of the Baptist denomination the lease would be terminated. It was voted to dispose of the old meeting house to help toward building the new one. April 20, 1846, the building committee, Philo Hawley, Edward A.

Phelps and James Marvin, gave its report. The meeting house was accepted and Rev. Rufus Babcock, Jr., D.D., the son of the first pastor, was invited to preach the dedicatory sermon.

Dr. Babcock was at that time one of the most prominent men in the Baptist denomination. Born in Colebrook, September 19, 1798, he grew up on his father's farm where he formed habits of industry, was graduated at Brown University in 1821 and became a tutor at Columbian College, Washington, D. C. In 1823 he was ordained pastor of the Baptist Church at Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Three years later he transferred to Salem, Mass., and in 1833 was elected president of Waterville College (Colby) in Maine. While there he was granted the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Bowdoin College.

Owing to ill health, in 1836, he resigned the college presidency and became pastor of the Spruce Street Baptist Church in Philadelphia. He was invited to the presidency of four other colleges and universities, Indiana State, Shurtleff in Illinois, Columbian College in Washington, D. C., and Burlington University, Iowa, all of which he declined.

His subsequent pastorates were in New Bedford, Mass., Paterson, N. J., and again in Poughkeepsie, where he had as one of his parishioners Matthew Vassar, founder of Vassar College, who consulted with Dr. Babcock about all his plans for establishing the college. Dr. Babcock was one of the trustees, as he was of Brown University for over half a century.

Dr. Babcock was several years president of the American Baptist Publication Society, corresponding secretary of the American and Foreign Bible Society, a frequent contributor to Baptist newspapers and the author of ten books. Toward the close of his life he returned to Colebrook at the solicitation of his old playmate, Gen. E. A. Phelps and others and took up the pastorate of the church which his father had founded and which he had joined at seventeen years of age. He died at Salem, Mass., May 4, 1875, leaving two daughters, Caroline Vassar Babcock Jones, wife of Horatio Gates Jones, Philadelphia lawyer and state senator, and Harriet Shepherd Weeks, wife of James H. Weeks, a member of the Poughkeepsie, N. Y., bar.

CHAPTER XXVII

Sandy Brook

(By Frederick T. Persons)

To many people, this stream of about a dozen miles in length is little more than a name. Most of its course is in a retired region and it is scarcely touched by an improved highway. To many followers of Izaak Walton it is well known as one of the best trout streams in the State and for half its distance has been leased by the State, being a tributary of the West Branch of the Farmington River, and is heavily stocked each season with trout from the State hatcheries.

The name of this brook has been a puzzle to many people. There is certainly no sand either in its bed or the region through which it flows. But the explanation is readily forthcoming. The stream has its source in Sandisfield, Massachusetts, a town named for Samuel Sandys of Boston and in the earliest documents spelled "Sandysfield." From the town of its origin the stream derives its name. In fact its earliest spelling made it the "Sandys" Brook. Now the final letter has been dropped and we have the name as it has been since well before the Revolution.

The Sandy Brook is formed by two brooks which come together in Deacon Abner Webster's sawmill pond in South Sandisfield. One of these rises in New Marlboro and the other in the Upper Southwest region of Sandisfield. From this pond the stream emerges and a mile and a half below, near the Sage place, another tributary, the East India Brook, joins it from the west. This flows from the east side of Wolf Swamp, and it is said that if a dam of any considerable height were built at the East India Pond in New Marlboro the water would set back through this stream into the Sandy Brook. The next branch of any importance is the Baxter Brook which enters on the east side just above the state line. This stream, from two to three miles long and not visible from any road, is wholly in the town of Sandisfield.

A circumstance that escapes many people is that the Sandy Brook enters Connecticut in the town of Norfolk and flows through it for something like a half-mile cutting off its northeast corner. It then enters Colebrook in which it almost finishes its course. With the exception of two nameless rivulets which flow in near the William Hotchkiss place there is no branch of importance till North Colebrook is reached. Here in

the Phelps meadows but not within sight of the highway there enters the Brummagem Brook whose source is the Norfolk ponds. This is a strong and beautiful stream, and an important tributary for Doolittle Pond which was once a reservoir controlled by the Colebrook Paper Company and the Eagle Sycythe Company of Riverton.

How shall we account for this name "Brummagem Brook?" The following theory seems probable: Up near the Norfolk line, Capt. Ezekiel Phelps, a brother of Capt. Arah Phelps, the settler, had a forge in the early days. The old wheel pit, a slag pile and the cellar of several houses bear abundant testimony to the former existence of the departed industry. Now who were the iron workers who wrought here? Most likely not Yankees, almost all of whom had been either farmers or storekeepers for several generations. What more probable than that Capt. Phelps, when he set up his forge in the forest, should secure for his puddlers men who emanated from the great center of the wrought iron industry which was and is Birmingham. And in the speech of the common people Birmingham was and is "Brummagem." What more natural than that these English puddlers should give the name of their native place to the stream in the wilderness on which they worked?

The next tributary is the Viets Brook which enters near the paper mill site and is named from the Viets tract in the western section of Beech Hill, through which it flows. This brook rises in Sandisfield and has recently been ascertained to drain an area of 25 square miles. With the exception of several small and nameless rivulets there is no important branch till we come to the Center Brook which flows from Colebrook Center and drains the great meadows. The meadows were once a reservoir and the stream, now long disused, furnished the motive power for two forges and a tannery. The Center Brook enters the valley in the most narrow and picturesque part and is the last tributary of any size till we come to Still River. The latter is the most important of all the branches of the Sandy Brook which joins it at the site of the Old Forge, concerning which we shall presently speak. The Still River enters through a wild and romantic gorge which is practically the lower portion of the Tunxis Falls, half a mile up the stream.

Like most of the rivers in Yankee Land, the Sandy Brook turned many mill wheels during its swift course in which it falls something less than 1,000 feet. Its first water privilege, and the only one whose dam still holds back its pond as of yore, is that of the late Deacon Abner Webster of South Sandisfield. Here was a saw mill whose huge wooden water wheel was one

of the wonders of the writer's boyhood, and a factory built by the Websters for the manufacture of scale boards and other woodwork was on the same privilege. Just below this site was the Miller tannery and the Bolles turning shop. But they have been so long gone that their dams and foundations have become almost obliterated. Philemon Sage had a tannery near his residence, but as to whether he used water power, the writer has no way of ascertaining. About the next privilege, however, there is no doubt. It was the Sackett sawmill, later owned by Albert Hall, opposite the Hamilton place now owned by George Hurd, and in the town of Norfolk. This was a large mill with two board saws and a cheese-box shop in connection with it. The circular saw was driven by a great wooden water wheel fourteen feet in diameter and the "sash" or "up-and-down" saw had for its motor a double iron wheel of the "rose" type. This mill which once did a large amount of business, was discontinued about 1880 and fell rapidly into ruin. Scarcely any trace of it remains today.

The next privilege was about half a mile below at the Burrit Roberts place. The fall here was slight and the power not so great, but Mr. Roberts did considerable business. He had a grain mill, a wool-carding machine and a cider mill, and for many years a distillery also. The building still stands but the dam has disappeared. About half a mile below the Roberts place, Wallace Tyler built a cider mill about forty years ago. The privilege has long since fallen into disuse but the building remains and is located opposite what old residents knew as the Chandler Walter Distillery Place. Passing down through a mile of wooded brook road we come to North Colebrook at the Alpheus Parsons tannery place. This was for many years the location of a small leather business, but about sixty-three years ago it became a wagon shop operated by Edwin Hitchcock. The property was burned about 1880 when owned by John Hall and the large shop rebuilt by him has since disappeared.

At North Colebrook is the large estate developed by Capt. Arah Phelps and ever since occupied by his descendants. Capt. Phelps' sawmill deserves more than a passing mention. He built it about 1787 when he settled on the estate. The mill pond was an old glacier bed which a short dam made into a splendid reservoir of about ten acres. The mill was built of gigantic timbers and its up-and-down saw made lumber in the old way till into the present century. A shingle mill built and operated for many years by the late Orrin Oles, drew water from the same flume. The location of this mill is one of the most romantic spots in the entire valley. The rushing stream, the closely encircling hill and the dark overhanging pines make a scene long to be remembered.

An old lake of the glacial period occupied the site of this mill pond, extending back as far as the North Colebrook Church and covering the Phelps meadows to a depth of thirty feet. It was held back by a wall of rock forty feet high, which was broken through by some great movement of the ice, cutting out a rock trough in which Capt. Phelps built his dam. There were two outlets to the glacial lake—one down the present valley and the other just below the Hiram Sage place. When the sawmill dam was in place, some water ran through the latter channel in time of flood.

The next privilege below the Phelps sawmill is that of the old paper mill, an almost forgotten enterprise in the last century. This was one of the most highly developed water powers on the stream, as is demonstrated by its only remaining remnant, the well built raceway which stands practically intact, though covered with a thick growth of brush. There was a grist mill here till somewhere in the middle years of the century. Then it became a paper mill which passed through the hands of several owners. It was twice burned and last rebuilt about 1870 by John Bliss. In 1877 the Vernons who then owned the mill, sold the machinery to the Ward brothers who set it up in their old calico factory at Riverton. After having passed through varied ownership and at least one fire, a portion of this machinery is still in use in the present Riverton mill.

Below the paper mill where the valley grows narrower and the fall increases, we find a number of mill sites; but the writer is not entirely certain as to how many were there. There was one near the Patrick Sullivan place and another near the junction of the Center Brook, called the Taintor mill. Just below this was a large mill at one time owned by the Watson Lumber Co., and later by Patrick Sullivan. This was a well equipped mill with a fine water power. Along the bank of the river in this section there has sprung up an artists' colony who revel in the beauty and seclusion of the rugged valley, among them being such well-known artists as Charles Chapman, Howard McCormick and Enos Comstock. Below this was the Scoville mill and not far beyond this was the sawmill and woodworking factory of the late D. C. Y. Moore who did a rather extensive business in the turning of fork and other handles for farm implements. Just below the Moore factory was another woodworking shop of similar size owned by Wolcott Deming. Some distance below this was at one time a file factory. Its history cannot now be learned, but the writer well remembers the timbers of a large flume which were standing out in a meadow about fifty years ago.

We have now reached that portion of the valley known as the "Old Forge." The name is very familiar to us. The school district is the "Forge District." But where and what was the Forge? The writer knows where it was for he has picked up slag from its site. It stood on the small level piece of meadow at exactly the point where the Still River flows into the Sandy Brook. The power probably came from the Still River, but as the forge was in the valley of the Sandy Brook, it belongs to our story. The forge was a puddling works for converting pig into bar iron. It was built by Richard Smith in 1770 and was located here because of the abundant power in the stream and fuel in the forest. The pig iron was transported from Lakeville where Mr. Smith had a blast furnace which was the first built in the State. During the war the Lakeville furnace was operated by the State government, but the forge was run by Jacob Ogden as a private enterprise for the benefit of the State. After the war it was run for a time by Smith's agent and it was shut down for good after about 1814.

We now come to Riverton where the Sandy Brook mingles its waters with the Farmington River. And directly at the confluence was the largest and most fully equipped power on the entire stream. On the upper side of the highway near the great dam was the old Munson mill which was one of the most fully equipped grain and flour mills of the entire region. There had been a gristmill here from Colonial times, but the mill was equipped as we have known it in 1853, and has so remained until within a very few years. Across the road and drawing water from the same pond was the Eagle Scythe Works dating from 1849 and for many years doing a large and flourishing business. But the hammers have long been silent, the whirl of the millstones has ceased and all traces of the former industries are rapidly disappearing.

Our survey of the Sandy Brook reveals that it has its full complement of the old-time industries of Yankee Land. It had in its entire course between fifteen and twenty water privileges, but like many industries in the larger towns of the state, they have gone, never to return. But the natural beauty of this valley still makes its appeal and people of discrimination are increasingly appreciating this and choosing sites for their summer homes in several places along the stream.

The Sandy Brook valley partakes of the characteristics of those valleys in the more mountainous parts of New England. It is for the most part narrow and rocky. The close pressing hills and the overhanging trees echo the sound of the rushing stream. Only in a few places does it broaden out and permit

the development of meadows. The first is in Sandisfield on the old Hall and Sage places where there are many acres of rich and level lowland which once brought prosperity to their owners. The next is on the Phelps place at North Colebrook where the broad valley fields made this one of the most valuable farms in Litchfield County. Below this point the valley becomes narrow again, but when the Moore place is reached it broadens and assumes a quite different aspect. Here are several prosperous farms, among which the Deming place deserves especial mention.

CHAPTER XXVIII

Brief Records of Some of the Early Families

(Arranged alphabetically)

Allen-Robbins

It is interesting to note that one of the granddaughters of Rev. Ammi Ruhanah Robbins, first pastor at Norfolk, and his wife, Elizabeth LeBaron Robbins, daughter of Dr. Lazarus and Lydia Bradford LeBaron of Plymouth, Mass., settled in Colebrook and the family has lived there ever since, covering more than a century. Elizabeth Robbins, born March 18, 1804, was the daughter of Ammi Ruhanah Robbins, Jr., eldest child of the Norfolk minister and of Salome Robbins, who was a daughter of Samuel Robbins of Canaan.

Elizabeth married Lewis Allen of Colebrook and their son, Ammi Robbins Allen, who resided on the Green Woods turnpike, the farm still being in possession of the family, is well remembered. Elizabeth cared for her uncle, the distinguished Rev. Thomas Robbins, D.D., in his last days, he passing away at her home, September 13, 1856, after an active life of sixty years as a teacher, preacher, missionary and librarian.

Dr. Robbins was born in the parsonage in Norfolk, was graduated at Williams and Yale Colleges the same year, 1796, taught school and studied theology, went as a missionary to new settlements in New York State and later on the Western Reserve in Ohio. After preaching at East Windsor and Mattapoisett, Mass., for thirty-five years, he was librarian for ten years of the Connecticut Historical Society, to which he had given his valuable private library, one of the largest in his time. He had been collecting it during his long pastorates. He received his degree from Harvard in 1838. His last days in Colebrook were peaceful ones.

Barber

Michael Barber, Jr., and his wife, Anna (Taylor) Barber, lived in Canton several years after their marriage, but in 1890 the then distant west lured them and they, with their three little girls, Clementina, six, Laura, four, and Clarissa, two, started for Ohio in the fall. They made the journey in six weeks with ox teams. Mr. Barber bought a tract of timber land in the town of Marlboro, in the midst of a dense wilder-

ness, erected a log cabin and began clearing up land. He soon sickened and died and was buried in a log, hollowed out for a coffin. His widow with the three little girls returned to Canton, Conn., where she remained till her death. The girls were in Canton a few years with relatives. Finally an uncle, Joel Humphrey, a Revolutionary soldier, living in the western part of Colebrook on the Norfolk road, found homes for all of them in his neighborhood. Clementina Barber at the age of ten came to live at Luman Barber's, now Mrs. Harriet Matheson's farmhouse. This was her home until her marriage to Hiram Guy Smith in 1832. Laura Barber lived with her great-uncle, Joel Humphrey, until her marriage to Phaniel Lawrence in 1824. Clarissa Barber went to Elkana Coy's, now owned by Mrs. Lillian H. Williams (1930), and in 1826 married their son, Remus Coy. They moved across the road to the Capt. John Porter place where they both lived until their deaths, leaving no descendants. The place was until recently owned by Lester N. Smith and occupied by himself and sister, Miss Gertrude C. Smith.

After their Ohio and Canton experiences, the three sisters lived and died in the west and southwest parts of Colebrook, within three miles of each other. They, with their husbands, are all buried in Colebrook Center Cemetery. They remembered well, in their early Canton days, of visiting their great-grandmother, Hannah Owen Brown, who was also the great-grandmother of the famous John Brown. She always went to her cupboard and brought out bread and cheese for them.

Bass

Henry Bass, youngest son of Nathan and Anna Rockwell Bass, born in 1776, married in 1807 Jerusha Holmes, daughter of Joseph and Lydia Curtis Holmes, and built the house on the west road, now owned by the Bickford family. He died in 1856.

Joseph H. Bass, son of Henry and Jerusha Holmes Bass, born in 1818, married Lucy Deming of the Sandy Brook district and spent his life there.

Lucien Orlando, youngest of the eight children of Henry and Jerusha Bass, born in 1826, lived on his father's farm in Colebrook and died unmarried in 1894.

Chamberlain

Colebrook River was the home of one of Connecticut's most distinguished families, the Chamberlains, and was the birthplace of two of them, namely: Abiram Chamberlain, Jr.,

who became a governor, and his elder brother, Valentine Burt Chamberlain, a leading lawyer and banker. Their father, Abiram Chamberlain, Sr., better known as Deacon Chamberlain, was a civil engineer and a man of strong principles and of strict integrity. He was born in New Boston, Mass., October 2, 1797, son of Samuel and Anna Conklin Chamberlain of Salisbury. He married, May 6, 1829, Sophronia Burt of Tolland, Mass., and after living for a short time on Long Island came to Colebrook River in the early '30's, transferring his membership to the Colebrook Center church May 4, 1834. The Colebrook River branch was instituted two months later and Mr. Chamberlain was chosen deacon and served twenty-five years.

Though he remained loyal to his denomination, Deacon Chamberlain and family became regular attendants and supporters of the Colebrook River Methodist church, the Branch church having given way as the Methodists grew stronger. He was a teacher in the Methodist Sunday School for many years. Miss Rocelia DeWolf, a member of his class, said that the deacon with Joseph Gibbs and "Uncle" William Manchester made a good prayer meeting even though there were no others present as all were wide-awake Christians. No one ever questioned a boundary line that Deacon Chamberlain surveyed and said was correct. "He was a godly man, never swerving from doing what his conscience directed." He was noted for his advocacy of the temperance cause and was a strong anti-slavery man, his Colebrook River home being a "station" on the underground railway for fugitive slaves. He removed to New Britain in 1857 and died October 14, 1871.

Judge Valentine Burt Chamberlain, the eldest son, was born in Colebrook River, August 13, 1833. He attended the Suffield Literary Institute, was graduated at Williams College in 1857 and admitted to the bar in 1859. The next year he established the New Britain News and in 1861 was assistant clerk of the House of Representatives. The same year in August he enlisted in Company A, 7th Connecticut Volunteers, was appointed second lieutenant, took part in the siege and capture of Fort Pulaski, was promoted to captain, July, 1863, and was taken prisoner in the assault on Fort Wagner. He was confined in prisons at Charlestown, Columbia and Charlotte, S. C., until he was paroled with his regiment in time to see the collapse of the Rebellion.

Capt. Chamberlain was a member of the Legislature in 1865 and from 1866 to 1868 was engaged in raising cotton on the St. John's River in Florida and represented that State in the Republican National convention which nominated Gen.

U. S. Grant for president. Returning to Connecticut he was appointed assistant pension agent, was judge of the New Britain Police Court for several years and from 1879 to 1884 Judge of Probate. He was a delegate to the Republican National convention which nominated James G. Blaine for president. Judge Chamberlain was president of the Mechanics' Bank and treasurer of the Barrett Savings Bank of New Britain. He died June 25, 1893. At his funeral, Gen. Joseph R. Hawley said: "I knew him for more than thirty-two years. Who ever doubted him? Whom did he fail? Did he ever lie? Was he ever afraid? Was he not just? Was he not tender and charitable, sound in judgment, prudent, modest, under estimating himself? As for my personal debt of gratitude to him, I have been bankrupt these many years."

Governor Abiram Chamberlain was born in Colebrook River, December 7, 1837. He attended Williston Seminary and became cashier and later president of the Home National Bank of Meriden. He was a member of the Legislature in 1877 and was Governor of Connecticut in 1901-1903.

Cooke

Lorin Alanson Cooke, fifty-fourth governor of Connecticut, was identified with Colebrook about twenty-five years as a school teacher and successful farmer. He learned many valuable lessons on his hillside farms and always had a sympathetic feeling for men who tilled the soil. Lorin Cooke was born in New Marlboro, Mass., April 6, 1831 son of Levi and Amelia (Todd) Cooke. His ancestors were the first settlers in New Marlboro. One was a Revolutionary soldier, and one a captain of the State Militia. Through his grandmother, Abigail (Rhoades) Cooke, he was descended from Resolve White of the Mayflower, and through his mother from Christopher Todd, who settled in New Haven about 1640.

When he was quite young his father moved to Norfolk where he attended school and later, after an absence from town, the Norfolk Academy under Prof. William B. Rice. He was greatly impressed by Dr. Joseph Eldridge's sermons. As soon as he left the Academy he engaged in teaching school in the winter months and took up farming in the summer. He taught at the Center School in Colebrook and in other districts. He lived on the Matheson farm in the west part of Colebrook and later on the Hoyt or Twining farm, finally devoting his whole time to farming as he preferred that occupation.

Mr. Cooke gained his first political experience when he was elected in 1856 at the age of twenty-five years to represent Colebrook in the General Assembly. He was first selectman of the town in 1864, was superintendent of the Sunday School for many years and president of the Agricultural Society. In 1869, after the death of his first wife, Matilda Webster, he moved to Riverton to become general agent, secretary and treasurer of the Eagle Scythe Works, which were rebuilt and enlarged that year, and continued until 1889. Mr. Cooke was postmaster at Riverton several years and State Senator from the old eighteenth district in 1882-1884, being president pro tem the third year. He was lieutenant-governor in 1885 and again in 1895. He was chosen moderator of the National Council of Congregational churches, to which he was a delegate at Chicago, in 1886. The next year he was made receiver of the Continental Life Insurance Company, which required a great deal of work and responsibility. He was delegate-at-large at the Republican National convention in 1892 at Minneapolis. Governor Cooke moved to Winsted in 1896 and that fall was elected governor and was in office at the outbreak of the Spanish-American war. Notwithstanding the heavy war expenses, he left the treasury of the State in better condition than it had been for many years. He was a director of the State School for Girls and the Connecticut Humane Society and a trustee of the Hartford Theological Society. He died in Winsted, August 12, 1903.

Cowles

One of the very prominent families of Colebrook was that of Deacon Samuel Cowles who was a native of Cheshire where he was born in October, 1735, and moved to Tarringford and thence to Norfolk in 1758, residing on farms in various parts of the town and conducting a potashery and store, the only one in the town for a time. He married Sybil North of Farmington. When he was nearly seventy, with his son, Samuel, Jr., they removed in October, 1803, or '04, to the southeast corner of Colebrook onto a farm of nearly 300 acres which extended into Norfolk and Winchester.

Samuel was a very earnest and devoted Christian and was chosen a deacon of the Colebrook church soon after he moved into the town, and held the office until his death. He was fervent in prayer and took an active part in the great revival in the fall of 1815, just before his death October 29, 1815, aged eighty years. He served in the French and Indian Wars, took part in the siege of Louisburg and the

capture of Crown Point and Ticonderoga. He was a strong Federalist and had much to say about the poor, misguided Democrats.

Deacon Cowles' son, Samuel, had bought a tract of land in the west which seemed very tempting but the son decided to remain east in order to give his eight children the opportunities of a better education offered here. He sold his western claim for \$50 and settled down on the farm, living an exemplary life. Samuel Cowles, Jr., married Olive Phelps. Their desire to have their children well educated bore fruit, for two of their children became famous educators. Henry Cowles, the eldest son, was born in the south end of Norfolk, April 24, 1803, just before the family moved to Colebrook. He and his younger brother, John P. Cowles, prepared for college at home. They were graduated at Yale in 1826, one the valedictorian and the other the salutatorian of the class.

Henry was pastor at Austinsburg, Ohio, for five years, 1830-1835, when he was called to a professorship at Oberlin College and continued until 1848. The next fourteen years he edited the "Oberlin Evangelist" and then, soon after 1862, began his long and distinguished work of writing his "Commentary on the Bible," consisting of sixteen volumes, upon which he was engaged for eighteen years. He said his desire was "to reach the full and exact thought in these sacred words and then present it with clearness, brevity and force." Dr. Cowles married Alice Welch of Norfolk, daughter of Dr. Benjamin Welch, Sr., and Louisa Guiteau Welch. Mrs. Cowles died in 1843, aged thirty-nine years and he on September 6, 1881, aged seventy-eight years.

The younger brother, Rev. John Phelps Cowles, also became a famous educator.

Grant

"In the autumn of 1810 there came to Colebrook," wrote Rev. Benjamin Dean, "another family of sterling worth. Deacon Elijah Grant's, which has furnished a minister and ministers' wives, home missionaries and a foreign missionary and pillars of the church," and he might have added, a member of Congress and United States Senator, Hon. Theodore E. Burton of Ohio, who spent twenty years in Congress and was a candidate for the Republican nomination for president against Warren G. Harding.

The Grants were descended from Matthew and Priscilla Grant of Windsor where he was surveyor, town clerk and deacon, and married, as his second wife, Susannah Chapin Capen Rockwell, widow of Deacon William Rockwell, the progenitor

of the Colebrook Rockwells. The two deacons came from Plymouth, England, on the "Mary and John," March 30, 1630, settled in Dorchester, Mass., and in 1635-36 removed to New Dorchester, Conn., afterwards renamed Windsor.

In the fourth generation from Matthew was Elijah Grant, born in Litchfield and settled in Grantville, Norfolk in 1761. His eldest son, Joel, married Zilpah Cowles and lived near Beckley pond. He was killed instantly by the fall of a well sweep in his yard in a storm, March 16, 1796, leaving four children, the eldest Elijah, thirteen. He removed to Colebrook on the Green Woods turnpike and became the head of the Colebrook branch of the family. His youngest sister, Zilpah Polly, was a member of Rev. Ralph Emerson's church in Norfolk and was inspired by him and his brother, Joseph, her teacher, to become a teacher. She became the founder of colleges and seminaries for women, was the teacher and counselor of Mary Lyon, and had among her pupils several Colebrook girls.

Elijah Grant married Elizabeth Phelps of Norfolk, November 11, 1807. They had five children, four of whom were born in Colebrook. One became a lawyer, one a minister, two were teachers and one a missionary. Elijah Grant and William Swift were chosen deacons of the Colebrook church in 1830 succeeding Reuben Rockwell and Daniel Stillman. Over thirty years later Deacon Grant asked to be relieved of his office and Lorrin A. Cooke, later governor, was elected but declined. The History of Windsor says of Deacon Grant: "He was called to fill every town office. He was noted as the embodiment of the Grant characteristics, shown in his quiet persistence, in executing his plans, never neglecting a duty for his own ease or advantage, but performing every duty assigned him, however small, with conscientious care and fidelity." He died August 25, 1867.

Elijah Grant, son of Deacon Elijah, came to Colebrook with his parents at two years of age, was prepared for college by Dr. Lee and was graduated at the Yale Law School. He began to practice law in Winsted where he married Susan Boyd, a daughter of James Boyd, a prominent scythe manufacturer, and sister of Hon. John Boyd. Mr. Grant removed to Canton, Ohio, where he became a prominent lawyer and banker and died December 21, 1874.

Mary Zilpah Grant, daughter of Deacon Elijah Grant, was born in Colebrook August 17, 1811, attended Mary Lyon's school at Buckland, Mass. She taught a private school at her home and then in Winsted and later at the Ipswich Female Seminary under her aunt, Zilpah Polly Grant. On

March 11, 1839, Mary Z. Grant married Rev. Ebenezer Burgess, who was ordained a missionary to India eight days later. They were stationed at Ahmednugger where, three years later, she was stricken with cholera and died the day she was taken sick. Rev. Mr. Burgess was a missionary for fifteen years, agent of the American Board of Foreign Missions, pastor near Boston for several years and lecturer. Mary Lyon, who had visited Mary Grant Burgess at Millbrook, wrote after her death: "You know I loved her much and valued her highly. She has gone but she has left in our hearts a sweet memorial." *Prof. Robert Ernest Hume (see letters who is French just by quindoo)*

Elizabeth Grant, daughter of Deacon Elijah Grant, was born in Colebrook, February 8, 1813, attended Mary Lyon's School at Buckland and studied under her aunt, Zilpah Polly, at Ipswich. She became a teacher at Granville, Ohio, and married February 6, 1836, Rev. William Burton, a native of Washington, Vt., and a graduate of Dartmouth College. He preached in Ohio over 30 years, a member of the Grand River Presbytery, and died on a farm in Austinburg in 1858. His wife died April 1, 1885. Their fifth and youngest child, Theodore Elijah Burton, became a United States Senator. *Burton*

Joel Grant, son of Deacon Elijah, was born in Colebrook, January 24, 1816, and prepared for college under Rev. E. R. Tyler. He was graduated at Yale in 1838, and became professor of mathematics on the U. S. S. Potomac. Later he studied theology at Yale and Andover, was ordained by the Litchfield North Association in 1845 and became an evangelist for the Mississippi Valley. He held pastorates in Connecticut and Illinois and was chaplain of the 12th Illinois Volunteers four years during the Civil War and chaplain of the United State Colored Infantry, 1865-1866, acting pastor at Colebrook for ten months, 1867-1868, and pastor again in Illinois five years until he died December 31, 1873. His wife was Abigail Fidelia Cowles of Norfolk, daughter of Moses Cowles. They had two sons and a daughter.

John Grant, son of Deacon Elijah, was born in Colebrook and was graduated at Yale in 1845. He tutored at Yale, 1848-1850, and taught in New York and Newark, N. J., and died in 1878. He was buried in Colebrook, "a man highly respected and perfected through sufferings."

Hawley

The story is told of a minister's son, twelve years of age, who caused a commotion in church one Sunday morning when he poked his head between the spindles in the back of a settee where one had broken out and then was not able for a moment

to extricate himself. That boy was Joseph R. Hawley, the preacher was his father, Rev. Francis Hawley, and the place the North Colebrook Baptist Church where "Father" Hawley, as he was called, was pastor in 1838-1839. He had returned the year before to Farmington from North Carolina where he had lived several years and married Mary McLeod, of Scotch parentage. Joseph, the future governor of Connecticut, was born there October 31, 1826. Father Hawley was pastor in North Colebrook during the time of the great anti-slavery agitation in Connecticut and he was one of the prominent Abolitionist leaders. It was little wonder, then, that this wide-awake son of the North Colebrook parsonage should later become a leading Abolitionist and the "father" of the Republican party in Connecticut and a great soldier in the Civil War.

Rev. Mr. Hawley succeeded Rev. Horace Doolittle as pastor at North Colebrook. He was a delegate to the Hartford Baptist Convention that year with Rev. Rufus Babcock, Abel Bunnell and Caleb Burt and also a delegate to the Berkshire Association. In 1842 the Hawleys moved to Cazenovia, N. Y., where Joseph prepared for Hamilton College, from which he was graduated with high honors in 1847. He was admitted to the Connecticut bar at Hartford in 1850. He became a Free Soiler and editor of the *Charter Oak*, an Abolition journal, and issued a call for a meeting in his office February 4, 1856, which resulted in the organization of the Republican party in Connecticut. It is said Joseph Hawley stood all day on the steps of City Hall in Hartford in a cold northeast snow storm distributing ballots for Fremont for president, but only twenty-three votes were cast for him out of 2,500.

Responding to the first call of President Lincoln in 1861 for troops, Joseph Hawley was active in raising a regiment and went to the front as captain of Company A, First Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, and was commended for bravery in the battle of Bull Run. He was appointed lieutenant-colonel of the Seventh Connecticut Regiment, which he assisted Col. Alfred H. Terry to raise. In 1864 he was promoted to brigadier general and in 1865 succeeded Gen. Terry in command of a division. Later he was Gen. Terry's chief of staff in the Tenth Army Corps. In 1866, Gen. Hawley was elected governor of Connecticut and the following year became editor of the *Hartford Courant*. He was chairman of the Republican National convention which nominated Gen. U. S. Grant for president in 1868 and in 1872 was elected a congressman and president of the United States Centennial Commission. He was in the United States Senate twenty-four

years, beginning in 1881. "For a generation," it was said, this North Colebrook parsonage boy, "was one of the foremost men in this country and his influence in the United States Senate was as great as any member of that body."

Bissell Hinsdale, Merchant

One of the earliest merchants in Colebrook was Bissell Hinsdale, who had a store on the North road in South Colebrook, near the Rowley Pond, before 1800. He moved about that time to Winsted, probably on account of the opening of the Green Woods turnpike and erected the first building on the south corner of Main and Lake Streets and carried on a very large and successful business "slaughtering cattle for the West India trade, making potash and buying cheese for the New York and southern markets." He was the son of Rev. Theodore Hinsdale, pastor of the church at North Windsor and Hinsdale, Mass., which was named in his honor. Bissell Hinsdale married Temperance Pitkin, daughter of Temperance Clap and Rev. Timothy Pitkin, pastor at Farmington, a son of Governor William Pitkin. His eldest child, Theodore Hinsdale, Esq., born in Colebrook, December 27, 1800, studied law and theology and finally went into the manufacturing business with his father-in-law, Solomon Rockwell, in the firm of Rockwell & Hinsdale, successors to Rockwell Brothers. After Mr. Rockwell's death in 1838, he was associated with Deacon Elliot Beardsley.

John Boyd says of this former Colebrook storekeeper: "As a business man, he manifested great energy and executive ability, while as a citizen he was prominent and influential in advocating every good cause and leading others by his activity and ardor. Gifted with a commanding person, a fascinating manner, and a native oratory, he became widely known and admired, and was sought as presiding officer or prominent speaker in the largest public gatherings in the County and State." He married Jerusha Rockwell, whose second husband was John Boyd, historian of Winchester.

Holmes

Rufus Holmes, son of Joseph Holmes and Lydia Curtis, was born in Torrington in 1781 and removed with his family to a farm in Winchester near the South Colebrook line. In 1810, he married Esther Eno of Colebrook, daughter of Lieut. David and Esther Phelps Eno, and (presumably) built the house in South Colebrook, now known as "Wyndecrest," owned by James O'Neil, where he lived until 1850. He also built

for his son, Lucius, the brick house known as the Eugene Barber or Speer place. In 1835, he married his second wife, Belinda Bass, daughter of Nathan and Belinda Mills Bass, of Colebrook. Besides carrying on his farm, he operated a fulling mill.

An ardent abolitionist and free soiler, his house was a station on the "underground railroad," where more than one fugitive slave found rest, and was sent on his way rejoicing.

In 1850, he sold his Colebrook holdings and bought the Seminary building, known as "Fairview," in Winsted, where he removed with his family. He died there in 1855. Boyd's Annals says of him: "He was a thrifty farmer, and an upright, public spirited and highly respected man."

Lucius L. Holmes, son of Rufus and Esther Eno Holmes, was born in Colebrook in 1811, and married Mary Ann Seymour, daughter of Allen Seymour of Sandisfield, Mass., in 1833. In 1850 he removed to Winsted with his father, and died there in 1854.

Lucius L. Holmes, Jr., son of Lucius and Mary Seymour Holmes, was born in Colebrook in 1840. In 1861, he married Eliza Norton, daughter of Elam and Catherine Hunter Norton of Otis, Mass.

He was at one time bank commissioner for the State of Connecticut, and later removed to Bloomington, Illinois.

Charles Beecher Holmes, son of Lucius and Mary Seymour Holmes, was born in 1846. In 1867, he married Abbie Pierce, daughter of Amos and Helen Spencer Pierce of Winsted.

He was made teller of the Citizen's National Bank of Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1865, but returned to Winsted and was connected with the Hurlbut National Bank as assistant cashier and cashier, until his death in 1900.

A citizen of the best type, he was interested in all good works, public spirited and high minded, and for many years he was a deacon in the Second Congregational Church.

Rufus E. Holmes, son of Rufus and Belinda Bass Holmes, was born in Colebrook in 1837, and in 1850 removed to Winsted with his father and half-brother. He entered the Winsted Bank as a clerk in 1853, and in 1857 was elected cashier of the Hurlbut Bank, with which institution he was connected for the rest of his life, as cashier, vice-president and president.

He held offices of trust and distinction both in his town and beyond it. He was a trustee under the will of William L. Gilbert for both the Home and the School, a member of the "water committee," which superintended the building of

the Rugg Brook Reservoir and the tunnel which connects it with the town water system, and town treasurer. He took a vital interest in the Y. M. C. A. and in many successful local business enterprises. His model dairy farm at Highland Lake was widely known during his lifetime, and he was a pioneer in many innovations and improvements that are taken for granted by the patrons of the modern dairyman. In 1893, he was appointed commissioner from Connecticut to the World's Columbian Exhibition in Chicago, and in 1907 was vice-president of the Connecticut branch of the S. A. R.

He was married three times (first) in 1857 to Lucy Ann Coe, daughter of Nelson D., and Maria Seymour Coe, the mother of his five children; (second) in 1877, to Mary Perit Coit, daughter of Henry H., and Mary Breed Coit of Cleveland, Ohio., and (third) in 1899, to Eleanor Willard Brayton, daughter of George Willard and Caroline Perry Brayton, and widow of Joseph Breed of Hartford.

He died in 1913, a highly respected and trusted citizen, whose loss to the community was keenly felt and sincerely mourned.

Lawrence

Phanuel Lawrence, son of James and Dorothy Lawrence, came from Killingly when quite a young man. He was a stone mason by trade and had much to do with construction work in the early days of Colebrook and vicinity. It is told that George Dudley, Sr., of Winsted, said that he would rather have Phanuel Lawrence with his old spotted oxen than any derrick.

Phanuel Lawrence married Laura Barber in 1824. In 1827 they bought a small farm and house in Millbrook for \$145. This was the nucleus of the farm and buildings that have ever since been the home of the Lawrence family. They had four children, Luther A., William P., Martin H., and Laura A. William P. was the only one to leave descendants in Colebrook. He was born, and lived and died at the family home. He married Sarah Eveline Hewitt of Winsted in 1860. They had three sons, Charles D., Robert W., and Russell, deceased. Mr. Lawrence was Superintendent of the Sunday School at Colebrook Center for over fifty years. He always attended church and Sunday School. Bad weather or bad roads were no hindrance to him. He engaged in the farming, lumber and ice business, later carried on by his sons, Charles D. and Robert W. Lawrence.

North

Martin North, Sr., at the time of the Revolutionary War was a resident of Winchester. He went out in the cavalry but soon after, a dispute arose about cavalymen doing infantry duty, and they disbanded. He came home and was appointed with others to care for the families of Continental soldiers. In 1797, Martin North, Sr., and his son, Rufus North, came from Winchester and settled on the New Haven turnpike, Martin on the place occupied by Ray Bartles and Rufus on the place occupied by Fred Thompson. Besides farming, they were woodworkers and made the coffins, chairs, spinning wheels, churns, plows and the many wooden articles used at that period. Before coming to Colebrook in 1789, Rufus North married Esther Roberts, a daughter of Joel Roberts, a Revolutionary soldier, and Esther Loomis Roberts. Mr. and Mrs. Rufus North had one son, Ebenezer, afterward called Eben, born in 1790, at Manchester. He was a surveyor and in early manhood made a map of the original survey of the town of Colebrook. The map is now in the State Library.

Mrs. Rufus North related many anecdotes of early days to her grandchildren. She told them of attending funeral services for George Washington in 1799, in the old church at Colebrook Center. Rev. Chauncey Lee probably preached the sermon. Reuben Rockwell, Sr., held a drawn sword and the people passed under it into the church. She told of her brother, Jenda Roberts, who lived in the edge of Winchester. He was haying on a meadow one forenoon. They went in to dinner and when they came out, hay and tools were under water. What had been a hay field in the forenoon was a pond in the afternoon, now known as Rowley Pond.

Mr. and Mrs. Rufus North had four sons. Eben and Lester went in the early days to Alexander Genesee Co., New York, where they settled, lived and died. Joel and Martin spent their days in Colebrook. Martin married Merry North and lived at the Rufus North place. They had two sons, Henry and Horace. Henry settled in Iowa and Horace succeeded them on the old place. In 1855 Horace married Frances Cooper. They had two sons, who died very young, and one daughter, Mrs. Helen M. Chester, born and reared in Colebrook, but now, 1935, living in Winsted.

Joel North married Harriet Taylor in 1824. Their first home was the place now owned by Robert Kelly Prentice. He had a blacksmith shop there. They moved from there to the place now owned by Mrs. Sarah Hodge. He had a sawmill on the stream below. In 1834 he bought the place now owned

by Wyllys P. Smith, where they both died. They had six children, Emily and Esther, twins, Harriet, Lester, Joel and Eben. Harriet was the only one to leave descendants in Colebrook. She married Hiram A. Smith in 1858.

Phelps

It is an interesting fact that the Carrington Phelps farm in North Colebrook, which was allotted to Capt. Josiah Phelps, 2nd, an original proprietor and member of the committee to divide the township, has remained in the possession of the family down to the present day, seven generations having owned it during a period of 175 years. It was declared a half century ago to be one of the finest farms in Litchfield County.

The Phelps family has been one of the most influential families in the town of Colebrook. William Phelps, the immigrant ancestor, settled at Dorchester, Mass., in 1630, was a member of the Constitutional Convention of Massachusetts, one of the first magistrates of Connecticut and a member of the General Assembly for a number of terms. A remarkable fact is that three generations of this family were soldiers in the Revolutionary War, exemplifying the famous painting, "The Spirit of '76."

Capt. Josiah Phelps, 2nd, great-grandson of William, enlisted at sixty-seven years of age and was in Col. Sheldon's regiment in Boston. His son, Capt. Josiah Phelps, 3rd, aged forty-one, was in the service and was a recruiting officer in Harwinton. His son, Capt. Arah Phelps, aged seventeen, was in the Battle of Saratoga and other engagements. Capt. Arah's younger brother, Josiah, 4th, aged fifteen, a trumpeter, was also a Revolutionary soldier.

It was in 1787 that Capt. Arah Phelps, having inherited the large farm in North Colebrook from his grandfather, moved into town from Harwinton and soon afterward built what has been known ever since as the Phelps tavern. Upon his arrival he built the sawmill on Sandy Brook about a half mile down the stream from the house, where a ledge of rock made it easy to dam up the river and then got out the lumber for his house, which is now occupied by his grant-grandson, Carrington Arah Phelps, the writer of popular fiction. The old stone horse block in front of the tavern is still in position, and Mr. Phelps has the old sign bearing the inscription: "A. Phelps' Inn," with a lion painted on one side and an eagle on the reverse side. This was one of the famous hostleries on the old post roads between Hartford and Albany, N. Y., and New Haven and Albany. Two stage coaches going in

opposite directions met there in the forenoon, and the drivers changed their horses, and two other stages met there in the same way in the afternoon. There is the old tap room in the tavern off the waiting room with a separate entrance for ladies and a ballroom on the second floor occupying the front half of the house. One of Capt. Phelps' daughters told her nephew that the stages carried a full load of passengers generally as well as the mails.

The tavern was conducted for about fifty years until the railroads were built in this section and drove the stage owners out of business. Arah Phelps was a captain of State Militia for several years. There was a training ground on the Bidwell farm on the post road a short distance above the inn. The captain was a powerful man, six feet tall in his stockings, and weighed 200 pounds. He could lift two men on the trail of a 200-pound cannon. He was one of the most prominent men in Colebrook, a staunch democrat, holding many town offices and representing Colebrook in the General Assembly.

Capt. Phelps married Welthan Mills, daughter of Samuel Mills, a first settler, who lived on the adjoining farm at the south. They had eight daughters and one son, General Edward A. Phelps. The daughters, only one of whom married, were Marialouisa Gabriella, Aurelia Keziah, Welthan, Livia Drusilla, Mary Ann, Catherine, wife of Dr. William Carrington of Colebrook, Candace and Laura. Capt. Phelps had a large flock of sheep, his wool book showing he sheared 193 in one season; also a large herd of cattle. He made cheese and butter and raised chickens and everything needed in the way of provisions, and his wife carded and spun the wool and made blankets and clothing. Capt. Phelps died in 1844.

Edward A. Phelps, the only son, was born in Colebrook, March 26, 1808. He attended the public school and at sixteen entered Capt. Alden Partridge's Military Academy at Middletown where Wesleyan University is located and devoted the next four years to hard study. The winter after graduation, 1828, was spent studying law under Judge Gould in the famous Litchfield Law School. In 1830 at the wish of his father Mr. Phelps returned to Colebrook and took charge of the farm and became the leading farmer in the town for fifty years. In addition to the sawmill he built a shingle mill and a fine residence nearly opposite the tavern. Like his father he was a democrat, held many town offices, represented Colebrook in the Legislature in 1841 and 1851 and was bank commissioner in 1853. He was a party leader, being a delegate to the County, State and National conventions. He was a director of the Hurlbut National Bank of Winsted for several years.

Having been trained in a military school he was much interested in military affairs and rose rapidly from ensign to brigadier general, commanding the Sixth Connecticut Brigade. His first wife was Elizabeth Carrington, daughter of Henry Carrington and mother of his three children. His son, Carrington Phelps, Yale, 1870, was single scull champion and captain of the Yale crew and his grandson, Carrington Arah Phelps, who resides in the old Phelps tavern, was middle-weight wrestling champion at Yale.

The Lancelot Phelps Family

One branch of the Phelps family which for three generations has been prominent in this section sprang from Lancelot Phelps, Sr., who moved from Windsor to Colebrook in 1794 and became the head of a long line of distinguished citizens, including a doctor, four bank presidents, two congressmen (father and son) and a judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut. In 1807, Lancelot Phelps, Sr., built a tavern at the intersection of the Green Woods and New Haven or Waterbury turnpikes in the Mill Brook section in Winchester, expecting to take advantage of the heavy travel on these turnpikes, but removed to Colebrook after about a year. He died at Groton, N. Y., in 1836.

Lancelot Phelps, Jr., one of the distinguished members of this family, came to Colebrook with his father at ten years of age, having been born in Windsor, November 9, 1784. He attended the Rock School, studied medicine and was admitted to the Litchfield County Medical Society in 1808. He lived and had his office in the Colonial house on the west side of the State road, south of the Alpha Sage or Wheeler store, now owned by William D. Fancher. In 1809 he married Elizabeth Sage and carried on his profession in Colebrook for many years, also representing the town in the General Assembly before and after the Constitutional convention in 1817, 1819-1821, 1824, 1827-1828 and 1830. He is named as the "civil authority" from 1818 to 1832. In the latter year he sold his farm in Colebrook and removed to the growing village of Hitchcockville (Riverton) as there seemed to be greater opportunity there for his son, William. He was an ardent Democrat and was elected from this district to the 24th and 25th Congresses, 1835-1839. His sight began to fail about this time and he withdrew from public affairs, although he continued to take a keen interest in them for the rest of his life.

After twenty years in Hitchcockville (in the house now known as "Cook's Place"), his only daughter dead and his sons gone out into the world, he went back to Colebrook, where he died in 1866 at the age of eighty-two.

"Born at the close of the Revolutionary War, before the adoption of the Federal Constitution, he was one of the men of the old school who ardently cherished the principles on which this government was founded. By his influence and example he did all in his power to make these principles a blessing to posterity, and was honored for his fine character and sound judgment." (From Stile's "Ancient Windsor.")

Warren Phelps, a brother of Dr. Lancelot Phelps, born in Windsor in 1794, was prominently identified with Colebrook and Winsted many years. As a young man, he went to Georgia and established himself as a dealer in planters' supplies which were made in Winsted and was very successful. Returning north, he represented Barkhamsted in the General Assembly two terms, 1842-46 and also served as senator. He was one of the organizers of the Winsted Bank in 1848 and the Winsted Savings Bank in 1860 of which he was the first president, retiring in 1862. He died at the age of eighty-seven on July 29, 1881.

Dr. Lancelot Phelps had three stalwart sons. One of these was William H. Phelps, who became a leading banker in the State, an organizer of two Winsted banks and first warden of the Borough of Winsted. He was born in Colebrook, April 5, 1818, and gained his first business experience as a clerk in Alpha Sage's store near his home. He removed with his father to Hitchcockville and went into business, keeping a general store with his father as a silent partner.

In 1840 he married Lucy Wakefield, daughter of Dr. Lyman Wakefield of Winsted, and built the brick house standing in Riverton on the corner where the Winsted road turns to cross the river. A few years later he removed to Winsted and entered into partnership with Normand Adams, his brother-in-law, in a store located on the present site of the Gilbert School.

In 1848, in company with Elisha Wadsworth, a native of New Hartford, he went to Chicago and, under the firm name of Wadsworth & Phelps, inaugurated a business that became by successive changes of name Marshall Field & Company. His wife's health and her desire to return to New England largely influenced him in disposing of his interest in the firm to Francis Cooley from Granville, Mass. (and later of Hartford), and the name became Cooley, Wadsworth & Company, the "company" being John V. Farwell, a young employee.

Some time later, on the retirement of Mr. Wadsworth, it became Cooley, Farwell & Company, and when Mr. Cooley retired in 1865 it became Farwell, Field & Company and successively Field, Palmer & Leiter; Field, Leiter & Company, and Marshall Field & Company.

The hardships of travel in the eighteen-forties and fifties have been handed down by letter and tradition, and it is interesting to learn that the best way to go from Colebrook and Winsted to Chicago was to take the stage to Albany and from there by rail to Buffalo, starting before daylight and arriving about midnight. From Buffalo a boat was taken to Detroit and the sail on Lake Erie was the best part of the journey. From Detroit a train could be taken as far as Niles, but the last 100 miles were done by stage, as it was somewhat quicker than going by water from that point. Five or six days were necessary for the trip, whatever route was covered, for at that period nobody travelled by night in train or stage and, indeed, when night came the wayfarer must have been only too glad to stop, thoroughly tired out with the discomfort of his own transportation.

In 1851 Mr. Phelps returned to Winsted and in 1854 organized the Hurlbut Bank and was made its president, retaining that position until his death in 1864 at the age of forty-six. He was the first warden of the Borough of Winsted, chartered in 1858, and took a keen interest in all public affairs. During his term in office the Winsted water works was established and the Winsted Park "is a monument to his energy and liberality." His grandson, William H. Phelps, has been connected with the bank for forty-five years and president since 1918.

Dr. Wakefield, father of Mrs. Phelps, was born in Colebrook August 29, 1787, studied medicine with Dr. Aaron Moore of Winsted and succeeded to his large practice upon Dr. Moore's death in 1813. He was the leading physician in Winsted for about thirty-five years and died March 20, 1850, aged sixty-three.

James Phelps, son of Dr. Lancelot Phelps, was born in Colebrook in 1822, attended Washington (now Trinity) College, studied law with Judge Ingham in Essex and at the Law School of Yale College and was admitted to the bar in 1844.

In 1845 he married Lydia Ann Ingham, daughter of Samuel Ingham of Essex, who had been a member of the 24th and 25th Congresses with Dr. Lancelot Phelps.

A member of the House in the State Legislatures of 1853, '54 and '56 and of the State Senate in 1858 and '59, in 1863 he was elected a judge of the Superior Court for the regular term of eight years. He was re-elected in 1871 and in 1873

was made a judge of the Supreme Court of Errors. He resigned in 1875 on his election to the 44th Congress from the 2nd District, comprising the counties of Middlesex and New Haven, and was re-elected to the 45th, 46th and 47th Congresses. Declining further Congressional service, he was again elected judge of the Superior Court of Connecticut in 1885, which position he held until disqualified by age in 1892. While in Congress he served on the standing committees of Ways and Means, Foreign Affairs, Reform in the Civil Service and others, and on several important special committees, including that to investigate alleged frauds in Louisiana in the Hayes-Tilden election of 1876.

He procured the establishment of the breakwater at the entrance of New Haven harbor and appropriations for the improvement of the channel of the Connecticut River below Hartford and at Saybrook, with other signal improvements in his district. He died at Essex in 1899, and at that time was president of the Essex Savings Bank and the Saybrook Bank of Essex, and had been Senior Warden of St. John's Church for more than thirty years.

John Phelps, the third son of Dr. Lancelot Phelps, was born in Colebrook and moved with his father to Hitchcockville and learned the chair manufacturing business. Later he established a chair manufactory at Middleville, N. Y., near Utica.

Captain John Porter

The ninth settler in Colebrook was John Porter, born at Windsor in 1744. He took up a homestead tract of 640 acres on the Albany Turnpike in 1770 between Colebrook and Norfolk, nine years before Colebrook was incorporated as a town. (Page 276, History of Litchfield County.)

Clearing the forest, his first abode was a log cabin. Later, on this site, which is now called Coy Hill, he built a house, the original frame and floor boards still existing in the dwelling known as the Lester Smith house on Coy Hill. (Reference Miss Gertrude Smith, sister of the late Lester Smith.)

Captain John Porter served Colebrook as selectman in 1784-1786-1788, and as collector of the Town of Colebrook deeded several pieces of land (Land Records of Colebrook). He also served in the Revolutionary War, going to New York from Colebrook with Nathan Bass and several others from Colebrook in the 18th Regiment, Connecticut Militia (page 471, History of Litchfield County).

John Porter had nine children. His daughter, Jerusha, married Frank Seymour and is buried in the Colebrook ceme-

tery. A son, Henry Porter, built and occupied the house now owned by Wyllys Smith. Mr. Smith's grandfather having bought the house from Henry Porter about 1826. Henry Porter had six children, but having married the daughter of Col. Jeremiah Phelps of Norfolk he removed with his family to that town in 1826. His son, Frederick E. Porter, became a pioneer woolen manufacturer, operating the Norfolk and New Brunswick Hosiery Company, the first company to fashion garments by machinery. His grandson, Frederick Phelps Porter, is now a resident of Colebrook, his home on the Colebrook-Norfolk road being located on land once a part of the original homestead tract of his forbear, Captain John Porter who settled in Colebrook in 1770.

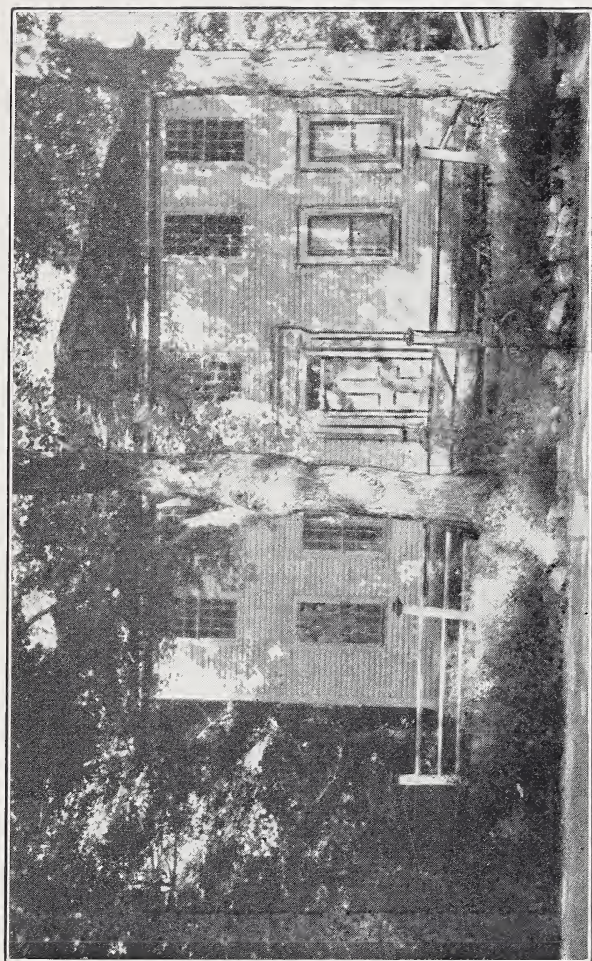
A son of Captain John Porter was deeded land to the west of his father's home and extending to the Norfolk town line on which he built a home, probably the site of the house now owned by Dr. Williams of Hartford (Land Records of Colebrook).

(Above information supplied from verified records of Frederick P. Porter.)

Rockwell

The Rockwell brothers, Solomon and Alpha, who moved to Winsted in 1801, building and carrying on the extensive iron works there, became the leaders of that town. "No one of the founders of our village," said John Boyd of Solomon Rockwell, "made a deeper impress on its institutions and moral character, or did more to increase its business and stimulate public improvements than Mr. Rockwell. He was the first justice of the peace in the Society and the foremost in all measures of public and benevolent enterprise." Another said of him: "He was a man of integrity constitutionally and from principal and was liberal and generous without a narrow or contracted streak in his character. He practiced hospitality without stint or grudging. His unwearied cheerfulness, his genial humor and exhaustless fund of anecdotes made him the favorite of old and young, wise and simple. He was a true gentleman of the old school, a Puritan of the Puritans, yet liberal and catholic in his religious views." He died August 1, 1838, aged seventy-four years. He married Sarah McEwen.

Of the younger brother, Alpha, the first male child born in Colebrook who moved to Winsted in 1801, John Boyd says: "Associated in business with his more versatile and sanguine brother, Solomon, his vigilance and method and his skill as an accountant and financier imparted to the firm the qualities essential to success in its varied and complicated transactions.



*Phelps' Inn, North Colebrook; built about 1789 (now occupied by
Mr. and Mrs. Carrington A. Phelps)*

No two brothers ever acted more in accord with each other or were bound together with more sincere affection. As a member of society he was active in promoting education and good morals." He died June 1, 1818, aged fifty. He built a house where the Hotel Beardsley stands. He married Rhoda Ensign. Their fifth child Delia was the wife of Deacon Elliot Beardsley, one of Winsted's most prominent citizens, in whose memory she founded the Beardsley Library.

The Rockwells

Reuben Rockwell withdrew from the partnership of Rockwell Brothers in 1810 and after Alpha's death, June 1, 1818, the firm became S. & M. Rockwell and continued until 1827 when Martin retired and Solomon continued the business alone until his death, August 1, 1838.

Rev. Dr. Joseph Eldridge of Norfolk in speaking of the six Rockwell brothers said: "They were rare men, every one of them, rare in their abilities and for their noble traits and Christian virtues." Reuben, who came to Colebrook as a baby, lived at the old homestead after he gave up business in the firm. His wife was Rebecca, daughter of Colonel Bezaleel Beebe of Litchfield. Reuben's mother, Hepsibah, resided with her son until her death in 1814. Reuben was deacon of the Colebrook church for nineteen years, 1811-1830. He represented the town in the General Assembly five sessions, was a selectman eight years and justice of the peace twenty-six years. He wrote a brief manuscript history of Colebrook published in 1881 in the "History of Litchfield County." He died June 14, 1840, and his widow in 1853.

They had five children, Julius, Louisa, Bezaleel Beebe, Elizabeth and Reuben, Jr. Hon. Julius Rockwell, the eldest son, born in Colebrook, April 26, 1805, had a distinguished career as a statesman and jurist. He was graduated from Yale in 1826, studied law at the New Haven Law School and entered the law office of Swan & Sedgwick of Sharon, Gen. Charles F. Sedgwick being a member of the firm. Julius Rockwell was admitted to the Litchfield County Bar in 1829 and the next year began to practice law in Pittsfield, Mass. He was a representative in the Massachusetts Legislature four years, being elected in 1834, and Speaker for three years. In 1843 he was sent to Congress and served four terms and in 1853 was a member of the Massachusetts Constitutional Convention. The next year he was appointed United States Senator and served two sessions. In 1855 he was nominated the first candidate for governor of the Republican party in Massachusetts and was nominated a presidential elector in

the Freemont campaign. He was Speaker of the House again in 1858 and the following year was appointed a judge of the Superior Court over which he presided for twenty-seven years. Judge Rockwell was president of the Berkshire County Savings Bank for twenty-five years and of the Pittsfield National Bank for twenty-six years. He died in May, 1888. His son, Hon. Francis W. Rockwell, also a member of the Berkshire County Bar, was a Representative and Senator in Massachusetts and a member of Congress four terms, 1884-1891.

Bezaleel Beebe Rockwell, the second son of Reuben Rockwell, married Caroline, daughter of Col. Hosea Hinsdale of Winsted. He became Assessor of United States Internal Revenue and a prominent resident of Winsted. His daughters, Elizabeth and Julia, left large bequests to the Litchfield County Hospital and Second Congregational Church of Winsted.

Reuben Rockwell, Jr., the third son of Reuben Rockwell and youngest of the family, was born in Colebrook, August 24, 1818, and married Aurelia Eno, also a native of the town, in 1858, "a woman of rare personal qualities." During her life they occupied the cottage north of the homestead, after which (March 9, 1876) Reuben went back to his father's old homestead and lived with his sister, Elizabeth, who cared for her father and mother in their declining years and her invalid sister, Louisa Bass, with an unselfish devotion and sympathy. Reuben was town clerk for thirty-four years, 1853-1877 and 1888-1898. He was postmaster at Colebrook three times, a total of thirty-seven years, 1841-1857, 1861-1862 and 1873-1893. In 1862 he resigned to accept the appointment by President Lincoln of United States Assessor of Internal Revenue for the Fourth District of Connecticut and held the office until it was discontinued in 1873. He voted at every town, state and national election from 1840 until his death, October 7, 1898. He was a merchant and farmer at Colebrook Center for sixty years and was known for his sterling qualities. He was sought by everyone who had business pertaining to the town, was universally liked and respected, and his cordial manner and quiet humor are well remembered to this day. He left no children.

Martin Rockwell, the youngest of the five brothers who engaged with their father in the iron business, was born in Colebrook, March 23, 1772. After his brother Timothy's death in 1794, Reuben married his sister-in-law, nee Mary Burrall, of Canaan, and lived in the house south of the store which his brother had begun to build when he was stricken. It was finished in 1795 and is now occupied by his great-granddaughter, Mrs. Edward Lathrop, as a summer home. The

brothers, Reuben and Martin, lived side by side for forty-five years with the most brotherly affection. Martin represented Colebrook in the Legislature six sessions.

His eldest daughter, Eliza Rockwell, married Rev. Ralph Emerson, second pastor of the Norfolk Congregational Church, succeeding Rev. Ammi Ruhamah Robbins in June, 1816. In the summer of 1828 he declined the presidency of Western Reserve College but in the fall of 1829 accepted the professorship of Ecclesiastical History and Pastoral Theology at Andover Theological Seminary. He remained there twenty-five years and five years later removed from Newburyport, Mass., with his family to Rockford, Ill., several of his children having preceded him. He died May 20, 1863, after a long life filled with inspiration and good works.

Capt. Joseph Rockwell's Family

Captain Joseph Rockwell, the second settler of Colebrook, and his wife, Anna Dodd Rockwell, had nine children, four daughters—the eldest of whom, Anna, married Nathan Bass—and five sons. John, the eldest son, had much to do with the division and settlement of Colebrook and held several responsible offices. After responding to the Lexington Alarm, he was commissioned in 1776 first lieutenant in the Eighth Company, Capt. Loomis, in Col. Gay's Battalion, one of six raised by order of the General Assembly, and marched directly to New York and joined the Continental Army, serving from June 20 to December 20.

Elijah Rockwell, Esq., the second son of Capt. Joseph, the first justice of the peace and life-long town clerk of Colebrook, married Lucy or Lucia Wright, of the Winsted Society, who lived a short distance down the hill from his home, near Rowley Pond. She was the daughter of Lieut. John Wright, first settler of Winsted, who had served in the French and Indian War and removed from Goshen to Winsted in 1769 or 1770 when Lucy was a girl of fourteen years.

Elijah and Lucy Rockwell were prominent in Colebrook affairs for more than fifty-five years and had the respect and esteem of everyone. He died August 2, 1841, aged ninety-seven. She died May 24, 1830, in her seventy-fourth year. They had six children of whom five grew up and had families. Elijah, Jr., married Sophia, daughter of John Ensign; Lucy married Aaron Case of Norfolk; Anne married Joseph P. Hurlbut, and Betsy married Dr. Luman Wakefield. Theron, the second son, married Clarissa Treat, daughter of John Treat of Hartland, and became a prosperous farmer and tanner in South Colebrook, the tannery being located on the

south side of the brook opposite the Brookside Farm Club-house, his two sons later carrying on the business and becoming leading citizens. Theron Rockwell died January 30, 1848. The sons, James S., and John T. Rockwell, in 1851 bought the Col. Hosea Hinsdale tannery, corner of Main and Spencer Streets in Winsted, which had been in operation forty-nine years, and the same year built a large four story tannery on the west side of Main Street, which they operated about thirty-five years. James Rockwell removed to Brooklyn, N. Y., and John to Winsted where he became a leading citizen. His residence stood where Munro Place now runs and his farm extended easterly to include the Winchester Soldiers' Memorial Park, which he gave to the Park Association. He served the town as selectman and representative in the General Assembly, was a member of the State Board of Agriculture, Republican candidate for State Comptroller in 1873 and a delegate-at-large to the Republican National Convention of 1876. He removed about 1885 to East Orange, N. J., which was his home until his death on June 13, 1899.

Annie Clarissa Rockwell, only daughter of Theron and Clarissa Rockwell, married, September 28, 1854. Frederick Michael Shepard of Norfolk, son of Capt. John A. Shepard. He left Norfolk at the age of eighteen and after a short business experience in Hartford went to New York and became identified with the rubber business. He was president of the Union India Rubber Co., the Goodyear Rubber Co., the Rubber Clothing Co., the United States Rubber Co., and the Lambertville Rubber Co. He resided in East Orange, N. J., and was president of the Orange Water Co., the East Orange Safe Deposit and Trust Co., the East Orange National Bank, a director of the Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Newark, N. J., a commissioner to build the Essex, N. J., County Park system, president of the East Orange Free Library and member of the Orange Memorial Hospital Board. He assisted in the organization of the Norfolk Water Co., and his benefactions to that town were numerous.

Gordon Rockwell, third son of Capt. Joseph Rockwell, who moved to Colebrook from East Windsor as a boy, enlisted in the Revolutionary War, in Capt. Case's Company, Wolcott's Brigade, under Col. Hooker at Peekskill, N. Y., serving from April 12 until April 27, 1777, and it is believed he died there.

Sage

Enos Sage, the progenitor of the Sage family in Colebrook, was ten years old in 1767 when his father, Samuel Sage, moved from Middletown to Sandisfield, Mass. There

were only two houses at that time between New Hartford and Sandisfield, one being in South Colebrook, probably Capt. Joseph Rockwell's. As a boy, Enos remembered a fine spring of cool water under the hill near the house. They had to blaze a cart path a part of the way through the woods. Enos enlisted in the Revolutionary war three times, first as a private in Captain Soule's Company, Col. Whitcomb's Massachusetts Regiment, serving until June, 1776, when his brother, Elias, took his place. He enlisted the second time September 1, 1776, in Capt. Samuel Wolcott's Company, serving three months, and the third time in June, 1777, serving two months under Captains Deming and Wheeler.

Enos Sage was twice married. His first wife was Rhoda Chamberlain, whom he married May 20, 1780, and by whom he had eight children, and his second wife was Eunice Smith Clark, whom he married June 9, 1803, and by whom he had seven more children. After he moved to Colebrook, all of the children grew up and had families. He bought a square mile of land in Colebrook, selling off 400 acres, and, with the help of his sons, built the house now known as the Isidor Jasmin place, east of the Rock Schoolhouse, and cleared the land, laying up many rods of stone wall. He had a grist mill on Sandy Brook where the Rinkel Paper Mill stood. He was granted a war pension while residing in Colebrook, where he lived for forty-two years and died in July, 1839.

Alpha Sage, son of Enos by his first wife, was one of the early merchants of Colebrook and had the reputation of being one of the most industrious merchants in the State. He built the brick house near the Rock Schoolhouse, where Mrs. E. E. Terry has a summer home, in 1822-23, the brick coming from Rowley Pond and Sandisfield, Peter Corbin assisting him. Mr. Sage was a remarkable accountant and was a man of much prominence in Colebrook. The store was later conducted by Rollin Beecher and J. S. Wheeler, who closed it soon after the Civil War, leaving it fully stocked with goods for which he had paid war-time prices. These were sold in 1908 at auction and, it is said, brought prices as antiques that made good the original investment with interest. There were peanuts nearly forty years old, copper-toed boots, old lanterns, etc.

Alpha's brother, Calvin, built the house north of the Center Brook, known as the Savage Frieze place, about 1828-32 and conducted a tannery on the east side of the highway by the brook under the hill.

Alpha's brother, Elisha, built the house known as the Dunwell place, now owned by Robert Kelly Prentice and much enlarged. Elisha had a blacksmith shop at the foot

of the hill and when out of work he said he hammered on the anvil just the same, though neighbors said he was always busy.

Hiram Sage, son of Enos, by his second wife, bought his father's homestead and lived and died there. He was an expert horseman and one time received \$10 for breaking a horse to ride, owned by Robbins Battel of Norfolk. He hauled stone and brick for his brothers' houses and did trucking for Alpha's store. He made two trips to Hartford in one week with two pairs of oxen. He was a constable and was engaged on the White murder case, taking William Calhoun into custody. He was also tax collector and represented Colebrook two terms in the Legislature. At one time he owned the Vernon Brothers' paper mill. He was captain of the Colebrook militia. His grandson has his sword. When he was forty-five years old he had his leg broken while felling a tree. He had to have it amputated twice, having been cut off by a neighbor's saw. His life was saved by a Dr. Hickey of Torrington. Charles H. Sage of East Canaan and his brother, B. Frank Sage, of Brewster, N. Y., for many years an accountant for the Borden Co., sons of Hiram Sage, conducted the farm until 1890, Frank leaving in 1888.

Smith

Joseph Smith, Sr., came to Norfolk with his family in 1763. Dry hemlock trees were standing on what is now Norfolk Green. He was one of the contributors towards building the first church in Norfolk. His son, Joseph, Jr., was a boy of twelve when they came to Norfolk. Joseph, Jr., grew to manhood in Norfolk, married Sibyl Wardell, native of Branford, New Haven County, and settled in West Norfolk. They raised to maturity seven children. One child was drowned in a spring in the yard of their place.

Joseph Smith, Jr., was a Revolutionary soldier. He enlisted at Canaan and was sent to the defense of Danbury at the second attack by the British. He used to tell his grandson many incidents of the war. One was of being sent with others to intercept the British Light Horse. They succeeded in capturing one half barrel of rice and the same amount of rum. Other incidents were more cruel and terrible. On the memorable dark day of 1780 he was plowing on his place at West Norfolk when it became so dark he had to stop work and put up his team. His wife, Sibyl Wardell Smith, died at the age of fifty-six and is buried in the Center Cemetery at Norfolk. He afterward married Anne, widow of Joshua Hewitt and great grandmother of H. L. Culver, now living in Cole-

brook. In 1818 they bought a farm in the western part of Colebrook and made it their permanent home. He died there in 1846 at the age of ninety-five and is buried in the Center Cemetery at Norfolk. His wife survived him many years and died at the home of her granddaughter, Mrs. Lydia Loomis, in Riverton at the age of 105.

Joseph Smith, Jr.'s youngest son, Hiram Guy Smith, came with him to Colebrook and worked part of the time at his clothier's trade and part of the time on the farm with his father, succeeding to its ownership. The farm is now owned by Dr. Williams of Hartford. Hiram Guy Smith married Clementina Barber in 1832. They had one son, Hiram A. Smith. In his early manhood he went to Ohio and taught school, but returned to Colebrook and in 1858 married Harriet North. He bought the homestead of the Joel North heirs and lived there until his death in 1923. Mrs. Smith died in 1916. Mr. Smith was sergeant of Co. F, 28th Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers, in the Civil War. After returning from the war he engaged in farming and teaching and afterward travelled for the Winsted Manufacturing Company and Empire Knife Company. Mr. and Mrs. Smith had five children, Howard, Gertrude C., Lester N., Julian H. Smith and Josephine H., wife of Burton A. Brooks. Wyllys P. Smith, selectman, owns and occupies the old homestead bought by his great-grandfather, Joel North, in 1834, occupied by his grandfather, Hiram A. Smith, sixty-five years and his grandmother, Mrs. Smith, eighty-two years.

Stillman

One of the prominent Colebrook clans was the Stillman family which became so numerous that they might at times have outnumbered all the rest of the church congregation or other pupils in the Beech Hill School. J. B. Hawley once said, illustrating the good feeling which existed between Dr. Chauncey Lee of the Congregational Church and Elder Rufus Babcock of North Colebrook, who took turns visiting each other on Mondays, that the Elder once facetiously remarked to the doctor: "Yours must be a very quiet audience, twenty-seven Stillmen!" The head of one branch of the Stillman family was Lieut. John Stillman of Sandisfield, Mass., grandson of George, a Wethersfield merchant. Lieut. John was proprietors' clerk and had the oversight of 11,000 acres in four Housatonic townships. He was an original member and chairman of the committee to build the church in Sandisfield. Nearly sixty of his descendants were members of the Colebrook church. His son, John, bought land in Colebrook in 1789. Rev. Ben-

jamin Dean said the descendants of Lieut. John Stillman were to be found in many states of the Union and were successful in commercial, agricultural and business directions and generally capable, exemplary and religious and a credit to the Colebrook church as their cherishing mother.

Lieut. John died July 15, 1789, aged seventy-three, and his wife, who was Rachel Robbins, October 12, 1807, aged eighty-nine. On their grave stone is this inscription:

"Farewell, our friends who are above,
Who visit our abode,
We wish you all to live in love,
And make your peace with God."

Roger Stillman, son of Lieut. John, born in Sandisfield, in July, 1754, and his wife, Mehitable Hurd Stillman, were among the original twenty-two members of the Colebrook church. They had five sons, two being deacons, and five daughters, all of whom were members of the church except one daughter, and at least a dozen more of their descendants and in all about sixty members of the Stillman family. Mehitable Stillman, mother of Daniel and Chester, died August 24, 1828.

In January, 1822, Roswell Stillman went on sled runners with his goods in a huge car-shaped box to Austinburg, Ohio, and his brothers, Erastus and Frederick, soon followed.

Robert Stillman died November 27, 1836. On his grave-stone is the inscription: "If you earnestly wish to see me again, seek not the living among the dead, but arise and become a follower of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." Zipporah Chappell Stillman, wife of Robert, died May 11, 1835, aged sixty-nine. On her grave-stone is the inscription:

"A long adieu, that friendly face
That we with pleasure once did see;
Alas! how void the lonely place
That once was filled so well with thee!"

Dr. Mary Elizabeth Stillman, a granddaughter of Roger, a practicing physician, was born September 24, 1828, and died August 17, 1879.

Elisha Stillman, Jr., was a cousin of Lieut. John Stillman. His descendants were members of the North Colebrook Baptist Church.

Taylor

Jesse Taylor of Hartford, served through the entire Revolutionary War. He had all the terrible experiences of soldiers of that Revolution. He was sick with smallpox, where all around him were dying. He heard the doctor say: "Ten chances to one that man lives." One year, because of his frailty, General Washington decided that he should not go with the army but should stay with his (Washington's) family at Mount Vernon. He had very pleasant recollections of helping Martha Washington pick peas in the old garden at Mount Vernon. Some time after the war, and prior to 1793, he came with his wife, Polly Owen Taylor, from Windsor and settled in the southwestern part of Colebrook on land set off to the taxpayers of Windsor. They came on horseback as no roads were built some of the way. Their house was built on the Old Green Woods turnpike, several rods back on the hill from where it is now. Here they lived and died and are buried in the old cemetery south of Colebrook Center.

They had two children, Harriet and Polly. Harriet was born in Colebrook in 1793. Harriet Taylor married Joel North in 1824.

The land where the Taylor house stood is now owned by Robert W. Lawrence, formerly called the Canfield place.

Wakefield

Dr. John Wakefield, son of Dr. Luman W. and Elizabeth Rockwell, born in 1823, was graduated from the Yale School of Medicine in 1847. He went to California in 1849, and afterwards to Minnesota, where he practised until his death in 1874.

James Beach Wakefield, son of Dr. Luman and Elizabeth Rockwell, born 1825, was graduated from Washington (now Trinity) College in the class of 1846. The college honored him with the degree of L.L.D. in 1886. After reading law in Painesville, Ohio, he went out to Minnesota and, with three others, "laid out" the town of Blue Earth, in Faribault County. He held many public offices, including Receiver of the United States Land Office, United States Provost Marshall, chairman of the State Board of Charities, presidential elector, Lieutenant-Governor, and member of the 48th and 49th Congresses (1883-1886).

"A glance back at the history of Faribault County impresses one with the fact that her early citizens were men of character, ability and training.

Among them, Judge Wakefield stands in the front rank. So long as he could serve, his fellow-men have called on him for service, and now, an old man, he can look out over the towns and villages and prosperous farms of Faribault County and say: "This is a monument to the little band which came through the snows of February, 1857, and opened the way for those who came after—and of that little band, I was one."

CHAPTER XXIX

Finis

The niche which Colebrook occupies in the history of the state is an enviable one; enviable because of the high character of the men and women who have directed its affairs for two centuries; enviable because of the example which Colebrook has set, of a rural town which has held true to its noble traditions from the beginning down to the present day; enviable for the large number of men and women whom it has educated and sent out spreading a helpful influence all over the country; enviable for the men and women who have occupied high places in every walk of life, whose forbears were citizens of Colebrook. The influence of such a town is immeasurable and, what is more, the possibilities today are as great as ever for Colebrook is an unspoiled town.

Colebrook is an unusual town in many ways. Instead of having a dominating center, it is made up of a group of villages and hamlets, six or seven of them. There were ten school districts in Colebrook in the days before consolidation of schools was advocated, one the South district, overlapping in Winchester. They were placed so as to best accommodate the children. Out of these schoolhouses have come men and women who have reached the top rung in places of usefulness, in the pulpit, in education, in law and in the courts, in legislative halls, in finance and in business. The record is remarkable and the half has not been told.

Colebrook seems to have reached its greatest population in the decade from 1850 to 1860, when the population was 1,375. The population was pretty uniform for ninety years from 1800 to 1890, varying only 287 in all that time. The east side of the town with its manufacturing industries probably helped to swell the population in the last of these decades. The population in 1800 was 1,119, in 1900, 684, and 1930, 564. The construction of the Green Woods turnpike, and the building of the Naugatuck and Connecticut Western railroads had their influence in keeping the growth down.

Barber's History of Connecticut, published in 1836, is not very complimentary to Colebrook in its description of the town. "The township," it says, "is hilly and mountainous and the soil a hard gravelly loam and generally stony. It is in general rather cold and wet, but affords tolerable good grazing." It might have painted a much more enticing pic-

ture, for Colebrook has unusually fine streams, its scenery is exceptional and, as for the stones, stony pastures build character. One could not indulge in ease and much less bring up a large family without using the strength God gave him. Many Colebrook people have prospered on these farms and the opportunity is still there. Many of the farms have been sold for summer homes.

A considerable space in Barber's description of the town tells of a discovery made there in 1796. It says: "Some laborers in this town, digging to a depth of nine or ten feet, found three large tusks and two thigh bones, the latter of which measured each about four feet and four inches in length and twelve inches and a half in circumference." "When first discovered they were entire, but as soon as they were exposed to the air they mouldered into dust."

The migration of substantial people both into and out of the town was very considerable. It is rather remarkable that Colebrook was the home of so many governors, so many preachers of distinction, so many college professors, so many statesmen. Among the others not already mentioned was Congressman Simons, who lived on Bunnell Street in the house now owned by Mrs. Helen Bassett Ford of St. Louis. He was elected to congress from this district. In speaking of governors, Herbert L. Culver's mother, Harriet Kinney Culver, told her son of remembering when she was a girl about nine years old of seeing Gov. Henry W. Edwards, a nephew of Rev. Dr. Jonathan Edwards, Jr., when with his beautiful daughter he visited his cousins, the Hoyts, on the North road. He was governor four terms and came to Colebrook a number of times with all the pomp and fine livery of those days. The event made a double impression for the waiter stubbed his toe and the dishes crashed to the floor. Aaron Burr also visited his relatives, the Hoyts, with his bride, Madame Jumel. Lieut.-Gov. William S. Holabird began the practice of law in Colebrook after graduating from Judge Gould's Law School in Litchfield in 1820. He had an office for four years over the Rockwell store. He was a brilliant speaker, was district attorney under President Jackson four years and lieutenant-governor in 1842 and 1844.

The present main road from Winsted to Colebrook was laid out in 1835 after five years of litigation in the courts. John Boyd in speaking of this road and one other says: "In both these cases litigation was kept up and long trials without number were had before the court and its delegated committees, at an expense in each instance exceeding the actual cost of the roads when finally constructed. Add to this the

point blank swearing by platoons and battalions of excited witnesses, the pettifoggings tricks of counsel unlearned in the laws of fair dealing, and the vindictive hatreds engendered among neighbors, and the evils cannot be overestimated."

Mr. Boyd speaks of an old road from Winchester to Colebrook on which Thaddeus Fay had a log cabin. The road ran west of the brook on August Perkins' (Joseph E. Carey) farm and was discontinued about 1800. Mr. Boyd frequently speaks of another road to Colebrook, now partly discontinued, which ran from Winsted, west of Rowley Pond, joining the Old North road at the James O'Neil farm as the "Old Hill road" to Colebrook.

Colebrook was included in the probate district of Norfolk and Winchester until 1838 when Colebrook was set off with Winchester and has continued to be so ever since. Michael F. Mills of Norfolk had been Judge of Probate at the time for sixteen years.

Western Star Lodge, No. 37, of Masons, the jurisdiction of which included Colebrook, Norfolk, Winchester and Torrington, received its charter May 18, 1796, with eleven charter members, of whom Capt. Arah Phelps of Colebrook was one. As the result of a petition to the Grand Lodge, April 8, 1800 Western Star Lodge was permitted to hold its communications in Colebrook, Norfolk, Winchester and Canaan and do any or all of the Masonic business. In June, 1803, they met with Capt. Arah Phelps in Colebrook and Rev. Chauncey Lee preached the sermon. June 13, 1817, Seneca Lodge, No. 55, of Torrington, was chartered with thirty-five members, Colebrook and Winchester being included. In 1827 Colebrook was set back to Western Star Lodge. In 1835 the money in the treasury of the lodge was divided, Colebrook receiving \$15.

Bibliography

The historian wishes to acknowledge the help received from Mrs. Ralph W. Holmes and Miss Gertrude Smith as well as from many others. Other sources of material are as follows: DeForest's "History of Connecticut Indians," Boyd's "Annals of Winchester," Crissey's "History of Norfolk," Rev. Benjamin Dean's "History of the Colebrook Congregational Church," and Records in the State Library at Hartford, Connecticut.

To the Members of the Winchester Historical Society:

One day in the summer of 1926, while talking about Colebrook in the old days with an officer of your Society, she asked me to write out my memories of those days. I have neglected to do so until now.

John Burroughs' message to a party of Vassar students, who visited "Slabsides" seeking his advice, was this: "Put your rhetoric behind you and tell what you feel and know and describe what you have seen."

This I have done in the following pages and I cheerfully offer them to you for what they are worth.

JANE E. W. SMITH.

West Ashville, N. C., December 20, 1930.

MEMORIES OF COLEBROOK, CONNECTICUT

1868 — 1877

My first acquaintance with Colebrook began on a warm, sunny March day in 1868. As a child of ten years I had gone six months before to live with Rev. Henry A. and Mrs. Russell in the town of Essex, Conn., where Mr. Russell was minister of a Congregational church.

It was decided early in 1868 that we were to remove to Colebrook to live with an aunt of Mrs. Russell's, Mrs. Samuel E. Mills, whose husband had died the year before and whose home was the farm house next south of the Rock School, so-called, a mile north of the Center.

After packing the furniture, in which I assisted by winding the rounds of the chairs with newspaper and tying it on with twine, Mrs. Russell and I left Mr. Russell to ship it and drive "Jimmie," the handsome dapple-gray horse, across the state to our new home. In order to reach Winsted we had to go to New Haven, thence to Waterbury and from there by the Naugatuck Railroad to Winsted. At that time neither the Connecticut Western from Hartford to Winsted had been built, though both were contemplated.

We arrived in Winsted late in the afternoon and spent the night with Mrs. Matilda Smith, whose daughter, Martha, later married King T. Sheldon. Soon after noon the following day the Sandisfield stage stopped at the door and we and our baggage were taken on. The stage of those days was a

long covered vehicle somewhat resembling the pioneer wagon of "Oregon Trail" days though much smaller and with a wooden top instead of a canvas one. It had a back seat and another seat facing it. A partition separated this compartment from the front seat, where the driver sat exposed to the weather. The top was white while the sides were of some gay color, usually red or green. The springs were not of the most approved kind and often when the wheels descended into a mud hole the heads of the passengers would bump against the roof. On the back was a rack for trunks and other baggage or bags of grain to be delivered to stores along the route.

On that eventful day in March soon after leaving Main Street for the Colebrook Road we began to encounter snow-drifts through which the stage lurched heavily—sometimes when the drifts were very deep we all got out and walked through them while the men passengers helped turn the wheels. After getting clear of a snow drift we often plunged into mud nearly up to the hubs.

The only one of the other passengers whom I remember was Rev. Wolcott Smith, son of Dr. Francis Smith of North Colebrook, who was on his way home to marry Mary Webster, daughter of Deacon Abner Webster of South Sandisfield.

Late in the afternoon we drew up to the stone horse-block in front of our new home. We and our baggage were unloaded and the stage went on.

"Aunt Mills," as we always thereafter called her, was on the little porch to receive us and she won my heart when she kissed me and said to Mrs. Russell, "I'm glad you brought the little girl." She was a woman of great intelligence and a great reader, interested in all that was going on in the world. Among the happiest recollections of my childhood are the hours spent in her room listening to her as she read aloud; sometimes from the *New York Tribune*, sometimes from the Bible, or some popular book of those days. Two of the books which I remember hearing her read were Mrs. Stowe's "Oldtown Folks" and Henry Ward Beecher's "Star Papers."

We had a Polander, Valentine Yankofski, living with us in the early 'seventies and working on the farm. She often used to read to him evenings of the Franco-Prussian war. He hated Russia and always took the part of France. Aunt Mills had a candle in addition to the lamp and as she read it followed along the lines. When she turned a leaf she set the candle on a little cherry stand which stood at her side. A year ago or so I gave that stand to the Winchester Historical Society, accompanied by an excellent photograph of the former owner.

Her conversation was an education to me and she often delighted me by sending away for something she knew I would like; one was a small telescope which was a wonder to me, and another a microscope through which we studied various things pasted on glass slides. Two other things I remember were a music box which when wound up gave forth sweet tones and a stereopticon mounted on a standard, moving backward and forward on hinges; one picture I remember was "Broadway on a Rainy Day." Once when showing me the picture of an English castle she repeated most impressively Mrs. Heman's poem, "The Stately Homes of England, How Beautiful They Stand!" On Sunday evenings she brought out a pile of old hymn books and we sang together "How Tedious and Tasteless the Hours." "When Marshalled on the Nightly Plain," and other old and now almost forgotten hymns.

Her husband, Samuel Mills, who died the year before our arrival, was one of the County's most famous farmers and one year his farm was awarded a prize as being the best in Litchfield County. During the last years of his life he was an invalid, but it used to be said that "Uncle Sam" could make more money sitting on his porch than any other farmer who worked all the time.

Mr. and Mrs. Mills had no children of their own but there was scarcely a time when some homeless boy or girl was not a member of their household and they never lost interest in any of them.

Many of the practices and occupations of old time New Englanders were still in vogue in Colebrook in 1868. Among them the making of cheese in the homes, the weaving of rag carpets and making of patchwork quilts. The day of spinning was past and I have never seen a spinning wheel in action. One of my tasks was sewing carpet rags and rolling them into balls, another the piecing of "blocks" to be sewed together to make quilts. "Log Cabin" quilts, made of silk or woolen pieces were very popular and when women visited each other these treasures were exhibited. Both the rag carpets and quilts offered an opportunity for the display of artistic tastes.

I was taught to make newspaper holders of old hoop skirts, which, if not elegant, were at least useful. Miss Mary Coy made picture frames of pieces of hard coal glued to strips of wood, which, after being made into frames, were varnished and which glistened cheerfully on the walls. Pine cones and acorns were sometimes used instead of coal. "Spatter work" had many admirers. One of our hired men, Jules Touponse, used to make baskets of willow wands and I used to help strip the bark from these. They were also more useful than artistic.

Mittens and woolen socks were knit for the men and children and wonderful fascinators and hoods for the women. I started to knit a pair of stockings once but do not remember that I ever finished them. Sun bonnets were made for summer wear with pastboard "slats" which were slipped out when the bonnet was laundered.

Sometimes Aunt Mills used to have a tea party for her old lady friends when she and the visitors were arrayed in their full-skirted black bombazine or silk dresses and immaculate white caps, often elaborately trimmed with black or lavender ribbon. They brought the caps in bandboxes covered with wall paper and donned them after arrival and they certainly did look nice. They thoroughly enjoyed these occasions. I loved to be present and listen to their reminiscent talk.

Among the ladies who used to come were the "Phelps Girls," as Aunt Mills used to call them, sisters of General Phelps. There were originally eight of these sisters living at the old home in North Colebrook known as the "Phelps Tavern," but only four were living in my day; Misses Keziah, Wealthy, Gabriella ("Gabrilla," they called her) and Catherine, widow of Dr. William Carrington, the last resident physician of the town. Mrs. Carrington was the only one of the sisters who married. The names of the others who had died were Aurelia, Livia, Drusilla, Candace and Laura. I went once with Aunt Mills to call at their home and Miss Wealthy gave me an almanac of the year before to amuse me as the elders visited.

Two other ladies who used to come sometimes to visit Aunt Mills were Misses Margaret and Desire Nettleton of Norfolk. Miss Margaret afterwards became the second wife of Rollin Beecher of Winsted. My memory of her is that she was a most interesting and charming woman.

The Mills farm house in which we lived was the story and a half type, arranged in the prevailing fashion. Two large front rooms opened into a small front entry, the outer door of which was a sort of sacred institution seldom used except for weddings or funerals. Back of these was the long room used for the "sitting room" in summer and combination sitting and dining room in Winter. Opening back from these was the larger kitchen with its big cook-stove in which wood was burned. This stove had a big reservoir on one end which gave us plenty of hot water.

There was a cistern into which water poured every time it rained and a pump from this was at the right end of the kitchen sink. I used to worry for fear the floor might give way while I was washing dishes and precipitate me into the cistern.

A great square table was in the middle of the room where we and the hired help always ate in summer. On cold winter nights this kitchen was about the coldest place I seem to carry in my memory and just before retiring we were like an ancient procession with votive offerings, carrying everything that freezing would harm to the sitting room, where the fire was kept all night by means of huge chunks of wood in the great sheet-iron stove. In later years a coal stove was installed in this room.

On the coldest nights the cook-stove reservoir was emptied and the water let out of the pump. When this was done water had to be put in to start it in the morning and sometimes it took vigorous work to make it function again. The drinking and cooking water came from a deep, moss-lined well out in the yard and was deliciously cold. In the wall of it was built a chamber into which were swung, in hot weather, great pails of cream and butter, the ropes tied to the well curb ready to pull them up again. When the bucket rope broke, as it sometimes did, and sent the bucket to the bottom, an iron thing with hooks called a "creeper" was attached to the rope and worked along the bottom till it caught the bucket. These occasions were full of interest to me.

From the kitchen towards the west opened the inevitable "back room" in which was the "dry sink," used in summer and a small stove with a big furnace kettle on its top in which were boiled messes of grain and vegetables for the pigs and hens and where the "hay tea" was made for the calves. One of our hired men said it always made him think of a big woman sitting in a little boy's lap.

From the back room opened the cheese room where the curd was made with rennet in big tubs and put into cases of cheesecloth set in wooden rings. These were put into the cheese press and pressed solid, the "whey," as the liquor was called, being fed to the pigs. The cheeses were capped with cloth and set on the shelves that lined the room and every day they had to be turned and greased to keep them from moulding. When they were "ripe" for market, Mr. Rollin Beecher came round and bought them for the lowest possible price.

A door led from the back room to the chicken yard and the bee house, in which the hives were housed. Places were left in the side of the building through which the bees could go out into the sunshine if they chose. A drink called metheglin was made from the honey.

In the main part of the farm house there were three rooms upstairs opening from a large hall room in which there were great bins where grain used to be stored, but in my day they were used only for bedding. In this hall-room was a sheet-

iron drum shaped like a stove through which a pipe from the sitting-room stove ran into the chimney. This moderated the air to some extent, but I have memories of getting up on cold mornings in these rooms.

The kitchen chamber was over the kitchen and was usually the place where the popcorn, walnuts and butternuts were spread to dry; also seed beans and peas and seed corn and herbs were hung from the rafters; catnip, boneset and worm-wood were some of the herbs.

The garret contained the usual array of old trunks, carpet bags and castoff clothing, as well as unused and decrepit furniture and most everything else you can think of. It was a good place to play on rainy days.

Housecleaning invariably began with the garret and proceeded downwards. The cellar was a fascinating place in Autumn and Winter. The walls were of enormous rocks set one above another and chinked with smaller stones without mortar and on each side against the walls were great wooden bins built one above the other: the upper ones for apples, the lower ones for potatoes, turnips, carrots, beets, etc.

Pumpkins and Hubbard squashes were also stored here and one end was given up to barrels of beef and pork salted down, and cider. We never used cider as a beverage, being a strictly teetotal family, but it was allowed to stand and make excellent vinegar. The odor of the apples as we opened the door to go down cellar was simply entrancing. The varieties were Baldwin, Hurlbut Stripe (originated by a Winchester Hurlbut) Northern Spv, Rhode Island Greening and Roxbury Russet. The Spitzenberg was a small spicy apple which the housewives used to like for their mince pies.

A long ell off the kitchen to the north was the wood-house. In the fall it was piled full of seasoned wood, cut the winter before and left out all summer. "Getting up the woodpile" and harvesting the ice crop occupied a large part of the farmer's time in winter. One of my tasks which I heartily disliked was picking up chips. Another task in summer was driving the cows to pasture and driving them home at night. I did not mind going for them at night, though often each cow was in a separate place in the big pasture, but getting up at dawn to drive them away was a sore trial. My favorite cow was "Old Brindle" and she seemed rather fond of me. I had at one time a lovely black and white shepherd dog named "Fritz Horace Greeley." He used to get in behind the last cow of the procession, catch her tail in his mouth and swing along home with her. She never seemed to mind. I also had a black kitten named "Nigger," who would stand under Old Brindle and hold her mouth open while I milked into it.

Other tasks which I was called upon to perform were chopping hash (which it seemed to me had to be of a fineness wholly uncalled for) churning, and weeding rows of carrots, beets and parsnips in the vegetable garden back of the house. Aunt Mills used to give me a penny a row and I used to admire the good sense of some of our neighbors who planted these things in beds with short rows, instead of the seemingly interminable rows of our garden.

It was a habit of mine to read a book when churning, holding it in one hand as I stood to work up and down the dasher of the churn of the earlier days and when the improved crank churn came into use, sitting in a chair and holding the book in my lap. On one occasion, when reading the closing chapters of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," I became so absorbed that I churned on some ten minutes after the butter came.

Another dreaded task was scouring tin when the annual cleaning of the pantry took place. It was literally a scouring of tin, for with the fine sand used in the operation, it was only a question of a short time when all the tin was scoured off, but it was considered the proper thing to do and we did it. This pantry cleaning was dreaded by the whole family, for it was always an all-day affair and as the whole contents of the pantry were arrayed on the dining table, dinner was always served on side tables, chairs or any old place and needed dishes were difficult to find. But when the fresh papers had been put on the pantry shelves and the dishes were all back in their places how nice it did look! (for a week or so).

One of the ways in which Aunt Mills was wont to entertain me was the recital of the names of the inhabitants of the houses of our neighborhood when she came there as a bride. I was almost as well acquainted with Captain Arah Phelps as with his son, General Phelps, and to my childish imagination, Captain Howell and the Stanwoods, who used to live to the south of us, were as real and present as the people who actually lived in those houses in my day.

Next house to us on the east at the foot of the hill, lived Mr. Hiram Sage. He was a widower with a large family of sons and daughters, who were always hard at work to make a living on the farm. My particular chums were Charlotte and Susie, the former now Mrs. Charles Hewitt of Winsted. We used to slide down hill together and occasionally spent the night in each other's homes. when we popped corn, cracked nuts, roasted apples, had pillow fights and giggled a lot. Mr. Sage was usually reading the "New York Tribune" evenings and he scandalized his good Republican neighbors by voting for Horace Greeley.

General Edward A. Phelps was the nearest neighbor on the north. He was jovial and though a bit rough, I always liked him. His first wife was related to Uncle Mills and the two families were very intimate. Gen. Phelps was a Democrat and was always joking Mr. Russell about his Republicanism. He thought ministers should not even vote, much less take any wider interest in politics. When the black Mexican corn first came into use he sent Mr. Russell several ears for seed, describing it as "Black Republican" corn. The second Mrs. Phelps whom I knew was a cultured, charming woman, and I was always very fond of her. She talked very rapidly and Aunt Mills used to complain that she could not understand her. Carrington Phelps, the son, was graduated from Yale College while I lived there. One evening he gave a much enjoyed reading in the Congregational Church at the Center. I do not remember any of the selections except "Darius Green and His Flying Machine," which of course delighted us children. He was in those days a handsome, immaculately dressed young fellow, with a waxed mustache. Mrs. Phelps often had with her a sister, Miss Frank Swazey, who, though an invalid, was about the jolliest person I remember. She was always telling some funny story with shouts of laughter. I once heard her tell of buying some goods at Brown-Thomson's in Hartford and ordering them sent by express to Winsted. When asked what name should be put on the address she said she was unable to remember her own name and had to go out and walk up and down Main Street for some minutes before it came to her. She said the clerk looked as if he had some doubts of her sanity.

The next south of us lived Mrs. John S. Wheeler in a big brick house. Mr. Wheeler kept the store which became so celebrated when its contents were sold at auction after his death. He was attacked there one night by a Negro with a big wrench and never kept the store open evenings after that. He was a kindly little man with a sense of humor and an excellent business education and he used to talk very pleasantly to me when I went to the store to buy a stick of striped candy. He never shoveled a path through the snow but trudged over the drifts between his house and store by the narrowest path I ever knew a person to make. "Mr. Wheeler's Path" was one of the jokes of the neighborhood. Mrs. Wheeler was a fine cook and many a delicious piece of pie or cake I received at her hands. She was a tall, handsome lady and dressed more elegantly than most of the Colebrook ladies and I was very fond of her.

Beyond the Wheeler's lived a Mr. Carey, father of Joseph Carey. Joe and his older brother, Charles, were both at

home then and their pretty sister, Mary, soon after my arrival on the scene, married Michael Ryan of South Sandisfield.

Next south of the Careys lived Miss Matilda Howell, with her Aunt Hannah. Miss Matilda was formerly a teacher but when her aunt became too feeble to be left alone she came home and cared for her till she died; then she went to Elgin, Ill., to act as private secretary to Gail Borden, the celebrated milk condenser. (Mr. Borden married for his second wife Mrs. Emmeline Church, a niece of Aunt Mills, and they often used to come to visit her.) Miss Howell was a woman whom I remember with pleasure and affection. It was often at her house and her earnest, cultured conversation made a great impression upon me and I am sure has influenced my whole life. I was in the habit of going to her house to wash dishes and help her with other household tasks during the days when Aunt Hannah required more than the usual attention. As an appreciation of this service she gave me among other things a gold dollar which I long cherished but finally took to Mr. Clayton Case's jewelry store in Hartford to exchange for a long-wanted napkin ring. Mr. Case himself waited on me and gave me for my gold dollar a lovely silver-plated gold lined ring with my initial engraved on it. As the ring has been in constant daily use for nearly sixty years and the gold lining has never worn off I must conclude that Mr. Case sold goods of excellent quality and he has always had a warm place in my memory.

Nearly across from the Howell's lived Mrs. George Austin and her daughter, Hattie. Mrs. Austin's cows were often pastured in the street, to the great annoyance of Mr. Russell, as they were always getting into some mischief on our premises. On one occasion he shut them up and Mrs. Austin had to come and get them. This I remember created a great commotion in the neighborhood and Mr. Russell became unpopular with Mrs. Austin and her sympathizers.

Over on West Street lived Mr. Lucien Bass with his mother and sister, Elvira. His widowed sister, Mrs. Jerusha Butler, and her daughter, Mary, also lived with him. Mary afterwards married Robbins Allen of Mill Brook and I was present at the wedding. Mr. Bass, when a young man, went out to Ohio and engaged in business but on the death of his father, which left no one but women on the farm, he returned and stayed the rest of his life. He was a well educated, public spirited man, a great reader and, though a bachelor, was deeply interested in the public schools. He was said to be an atheist but he attended church regularly, listened attentively and never entered into any arguments with Mr. Russell, who supplied the pulpit of the Congregational Church, as long as he lived in Colebrook.

Beyond the Basses lived Mr. and Mrs. Erastus Hart, parents of Gilbert Hart, with their daughter, Hattie, who afterwards married Henry Mitchell, a young lawyer in Athens, Georgia. Mr. Hart was a jolly man, much liked by his daughter's chums.

On the same street lived two retired ministers, Rev. Thomas Benedict and Rev. Ira Bonney. Mr. Bonney was one of the saints of the earth but was a very homely man and when he talked in meetings used such facial contortions that we children used to think it was as good as a circus, but we always liked and respected him. It was said that once when attempting to put up a stove pipe Parson Benedict became so angry that he used swear words that were a scandal to the neighborhood. I cannot vouch for the truth of this.

Next house to Mr. Bonney lived Mrs. Cooke, a widow, and her three daughters, Emma, Winnie and Agnes. They were very attractive, nice girls and their mother made sacrifices to educate them. She was very particular about their associations but I, being a member of the minister's family, was allowed to visit them occasionally and they always remained pleasantly in my memory.

Our social life in those days centered largely in the church. We had morning and afternoon services, with Sunday school in between, but no evening service. The short interval between Sunday School and afternoon service was our visiting time. The men met at the horse sheds and talked over the things that interested them, while the women were welcome at Grandma Smith's near the Church. She was a most cordial hostess and interested in the affairs of both old and young.

Of great interest to us girls in those days were visiting cards with our names printed on them in different styles, types and prices. Some of them had dashes of bright color across their glazed surfaces and some were delightfully perfumed. The printers gave little prizes to us for securing orders and for a time I did quite a thriving business among the boys and girls during these Sunday intermissions. But Mr. Russell heard of it and I was informed that it was most unseemly for a member of the minister's family to be engaged in mercantile business on Sunday. After that another girl, not hampered by religious restrictions, succeeded to my profits.

The older girls had visits with their beaux in summer out under the lovely great elm trees that then graced the lawn in front of the Church and in winter around the big wood stoves in the rear of the Church auditorium. Later on these stoves were taken to the basement, boxed up and connected with large pipes with registers in the Church.

The pews had doors with buttons to close them and it was the custom for the mother to go in first while the children filed in after her and the father entered last and closed and buttoned the door.

The deacons were Marcus Grant, Lorrin A. Cooke, William P. Lawrence, George M. Carrington and Eugene H. Barber. Deacon Lawrence was also the Sunday School Superintendent and Deacon Cooke Assistant till he moved to River-ton, when Ezra Stocking took his place.

Mr. Stocking asked us to bring in one Sunday all the promises we could find in the Bible beginning with A. We then voted which was the most precious one and that was placed at the head of our list. The next Sunday all the promises beginning with B were presented and the choice made and so on to the end of the alphabet. I remember still those of the first four letters: "As the mountains are round about Jerusalem," etc.; Believe on the Lord, Jesus Christ," etc.; "Come unto me all ye that labor," etc.; "Draw nigh to God and he will nigh draw nigh to you."

Innovations in religious services were very rare in those days and we younger members remembered this one. In those days nearly everybody went to church. From Beech Hill came Deacon Dorr and his family; Mrs. Hulbert, daughter of Deacon Edmund Stillman, and her son, Edmund, who became the famous banker of Chicago. From the south part of the town Deacon Eugene Barber, the Marvins, Albert Kelsey and wife and their twin daughters, Horace White and his sisters; Edward and John Seymour, brothers, living on adjoining farms on the "old road to Winsted," Mr. and Mrs. Allen Green and son Albert, Mr. and Mrs. Levi Cooke, parents of Lorrin Cooke, Mrs. Seth Whiting and son Julius, Peter Corbin, Horace North, Captain William Swift and his sister, Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Osborne Stillman and Mr. and Mrs. George M. Carrington, who lived with her for a few years.

From the west, Tim Coy and his sister Mary, Hiram Smith, Martin Phelps, Charles and Ralzman Phelps, Lewis and Nelson Barnard, brothers on adjoining farms, Samuel Cooper, son-in-law of Lewis Barnard.

From Mill Brook, Deacon Lawrence, Deacon Grant, Mr. Emmons and his three sons, Robbins Allen and his mother and Mrs. Orville Pinney.

Deacon Grant was apt to come in when the morning service was well underway and was often seen nodding in his seat at the afternoon service.

Mr. Edward Carrington and family always sat in the "amen seats" on the minister's left. In summer, Dr. Leonard

Bacon, pastor of Center Church, New Haven, and family were his guests and they filled two or three seats. On the minister's left were Mr. and Mrs. James Dunwell and their daughter-in-law, Jennie, who afterwards married Wallace Persons of Winsted. And in summer Mrs. Dunwell's sister, Mrs. Turner, of New York city and her three daughters, Julia, Addie and Emma, were always with them. Mr. Dunwell sometimes used to play his melodian at some of our church gatherings.

In the front seat on the minister's right always sat Miss Charlotte Rockwell and her sister, Mary. The latter was a wizened woman who left all conversation and business to her more assertive sister. Directly back of them was the seat of Miss Elizabeth Rockwell, who was usually alone except when her nephew, Sam Bass, came up from New York for a weekend. Sometimes he was accompanied by his wife, "Katie," as she was affectionately called. She was one of the most charming personalities I ever remember seeing in my whole life. The mother of Mr. Bass was an invalid and was tenderly cared for by her sister, Miss Elizabeth Rockwell, to the end of her life. They lived in the house where they were born, which was also the first house built in the town. During the first years it was used also for a Church and Town Hall.

In the front seat on the other side of the Church was Mrs. Amos Corbin and sometimes Mr. Corbin was with her. Mrs. Corbin was afflicted with a nervous trouble and her facial contortions had a fascinating interest for us youngsters, as those of Mr. Bonney. She was a cultured and devout woman, interesting in conversation. Her favorite hymn was "Whilst Thee I Seek, Protecting Power" and it was sung at her funeral. She had three rather famous brothers who visited her occasionally, James, John and Henry Cowles. One was a teacher, one the author of the then famous "Cowles' Commentaries on the Bible," and John was a blind poet.

Other people living about the Center who could usually be found at Church were: Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Rockwell, Mr. and Mrs. William Smith and four children, Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Sackett and sons, Grove and Frank, Mr. and Mrs. Birdseye Bailey and children, the Misses Ann and Eliza Gilbert, Tracey Whiting and his daughter Susan, Miss Keturah Bigelow and her nieces, Mary and Mattie Smith, Miss Sophia Rockwell, who lived next house to them on Water Street, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Allen and daughters, Belle and Minnie, Miss Chloe Bass and her sister, Mrs. Harvey Whiting and Mr. and Mrs. Simeon Bliss.

At the end of the afternoon service the men went to the horse sheds to get their teams and the procession proceeded to

the Church horse block, where the women folk were loaded in and they started homeward. Sometimes the women were so busy visiting that they did not appear when the team drove up. Then the driver drove around to the rear of the procession and waited his turn. I always imagined that these laggard ladies got a lecture on the way home. The minister had to stop and talk and shake hands with everybody, so we were usually about the last to leave the Church.

There were not many summer visitors in those days. In addition to those I have mentioned were Prof. William Brewer of Yale and Leonard Bacon, Jr., who with their families were quartered at Mr. Peter Corbin's. Selden Bacon, now the husband of Josephine Daskam, the writer, was a son of Leonard, Jr. He often came to our house to play croquet and one late afternoon he wiped the supper dishes for me so I could get out soon to play with him. He was a fat, jolly chap.

To the home of the Misses Ann and Eliza Gilbert came their brother, Rev. William Gilbert, with his family, and Prof. Thomas Thacher of Yale. Mr. Gilbert, who was agent for the Connecticut Bible Society, usually preached once during the summer.

Another minister who preached to us during his vacation spent with his sister, Mrs. Everett Holmes, was Rev. Lumas Pease. He was Chaplain of the Sailors' Bethel at New Orleans and was said to be very much beloved by the sailors who came into the port and he exercised a most wholesome influence on them. He was a very tall, ungainly man, with a long, homely but most wonderfully kind face. He loved to visit among his old friends and was always talking about his "boys who go down to the sea in ships and do business upon the great waters" and his voice often sailed up into the falsetto, to the great amusement of his hearers. He lived a bachelor to the end of his days.

Mr. Russell often exchanged with the ministers of the surrounding towns and during revival seasons they often came to help him frighten sinners and plead with them to flee from the wrath to come. There was usually more said about wrath than love. From West Winsted came Rev. L. H. Hallock, with his rather effeminate face and flowing beard; Rev. Thomas M. Miles from East Winsted; the genial and always smiling Rev. Arthur Goodenough from Winchester; and from Norfolk the beloved Dr. Joseph Eldridge. I do not recall the names of the ministers of Salisbury, Goshen, Canaan or New Hartford, but Dr. Lavalette Perrin was pastor of the Torrington, or as it was then called, Wolcottville, Congregational Church and a very young, rosy-cheeked Mr. Potter was in Riv-

erton. After Dr. Eldridge passed away, John Wicliffe Beach became the Norfolk minister. He was young, smart, rather stiff in his manner; a little conceited and had red hair. All these ministers were members of the "North Consociation" and met at each others' houses at stated intervals. A dinner was always served by the host and, as I was always the table waiter when they came to our house, I can quite agree with a certain colored chef that "them pious sure do eat powerful." Dr. Goodenough always had a pleasant word and often a joke for me, and Dr. Eldridge, with his frayed collar, was most kind, but of the others I rather stood in awe. Mr. Russell had a keen sense of humor and a hearty, contagious laugh and seemed to be well liked by the other ministers.

Mrs. Russell was a very religious, rather sober, woman, with a firm belief to the end of her days in what are now called the fundamentalist doctrines and dogmas. The traditions of the Fathers were sacred in her eyes but she had a warm, sympathetic heart and was often sought by the women of the parish for counsel and comfort.

Our home was a social center for all ages and conditions. One year during the holiday season the young people were all invited one evening and the older people the next. Refreshments were served by us and they proved to be very pleasant occasions. Mrs. Reuben Rockwell came both evenings, as she said she would be classed with the older people but classed herself with the younger.

The tables of those days were loaded down with raised biscuits, sweet butter and cream from our own dairy, sliced dried beef of our curing, cheese of our making and the inevitable "silver and gold" cake, frosted and laid in alternate pieces in a silver cake basket, wonderful spiced pickles, sweet and sour, cocoanut or pumpkin pie and delicious canned fruit of our own canning.

To our house also came indigent ministers who were often entertained over night and given a little "lift." Book agents never failed to call to get the minister's name to start off with. I remember one who was selling an expensive, illustrated edition of the Bible. Turning the leaves to a picture of Moses he said to Mr. Russell, "Now, doesn't this look just like Moses?"

Rev. William Goodwin was the minister at the Baptist Church at North Colebrook and later was succeeded by Rev. Mr. Maine, but I do not remember that either of them ever exchanged pulpits with Mr. Russell. Rev. Mr. Dickerman of the Colebrook River Methodist Church came occasionally and I used to go with Mr. Russell when he went there. His daughter, Miss Addie Dickerman, and I were very good friends. With

Colebrook River we had almost no other contact except on election days or the days when the Selectmen met for conference.

Revivals of religion were very solemn occasions and dreaded by the young people. I never took to them and as I grew older refused to go to the meetings. Some of the hymns sung at these services were: "Almost Persuaded," "Come Trembling Sinner," to the tune of "Balerna, and "Trembling Before Thine Awful Throne." The last verse of this last impressed me very much in those days and does still; it ran in this wise:

"But I, amid your choirs shall shine,
And all your knowledge shall be mine.
Ye on your harps must lean, to hear
A secret chord that mine will bear."

Among the hymns sung at funerals were the following: "In the Christian's Home in Glory," "Asleep in Jesus," "Friend After Friend Departs," "Sister, Thou Wast Mild and Lovely," "Cease, Ye Mourners, Cease to Languish," "Thou Art Gone to the Grave" and "Why Do We Mourn Departing Friends?" to the weird old tune of "China." "Breaking Through the Clouds That Gather O'er the Christian's Natal Skies" was sung at the funeral of Mrs. Reuben Rockwell, and "Oh, Think of a Home Over There" at Mrs. Timothy Coy's funeral. Those country funerals were always most impressive. In later years a little book called "Winnowed Hymns" was often used on these occasions. One of the most beautiful of these was "Peacefully Rest." Many of the hymns in this book were also sung in the prayer meetings as a concession to the young people. "Safe in the Arms of Jesus," "I Need Thee Every Hour," "I Love to Tell the Story," "There is a Gate That Stands Ajar," "Sweet By and By," "One More Day's Work for Jesus," "He Leadeth Me" and "Nothing But Leaves" were favorites. Moody and Sankey in their meetings in Hartford had made them popular and Sankey's special, "The Ninety and Nine," had a wonderful vogue. This was before the days of the Christian Endeavor or any distinctive meetings for young people.

In the regular Church services the old tunes of "Ortonville," "Rockingham," "Martin," Bethany," Brattle Street," "Coronation," "Hebron," "Rathbun," "Duke Street" were the ones more commonly used. I must have had a rather sober taste for so young a person for my favorite hymns were "By Cool Siloam's Shady Rill" and "'Tis Midnight and on Olive's Brow." Another that interested me very much began in this way:

“Beyond, beyond the boundless sea;
Above that dome of sky;
Farther than thought itself can flee,
Thy dwelling is on high.”

The tune carried the soprano almost into a screaming falsetto, I suppose in an attempt to follow the thought. I always admired the skill of the singer (Mrs. Henry Allen) because she got to the top without a break.

Other singers of that time were William P. Lawrence, base and chorister, Charles Seymour, tenor, and Cora Phelps, alto. Nellie Hunt, who had a strong sweet voice, was at one time one of the sopranos, and often school teachers for the time resident among us added their voices to the volume of sound.

The choir sat in the gallery in the rear and it was considered good form to turn round and gaze at them during the singing. Mary Coy always played the cabinet organ in accompaniment. On Communion Sundays the choir always sat below and the organ was not used. It was reported that once, when the organ was used at this service Mrs. Seth Whiting, to show her disapproval, rose and left the Church. She was my first Sunday School teacher and, whatever her musical eccentricities may have been, she was a good faithful teacher and we all respected and loved her. One of the days which we all looked forward to was the one when we were all invited to her house for tea.

Later on I was promoted to Miss Charlotte Rockwell's class. She was a strong personality; well read and with decided opinions which she did not hesitate to express; tall, with a somewhat sharp and angular face and a rather haughty, aristocratic air, at times. She had the confidence and affection of all her "girls" and I always loved to meet and talk with her in after years. She and her sister, Mary, lived in their childhood home across the road from the Church.

The school then had only two terms—the summer term, taught by a woman, and the Winter term, usually by a man. Hiram Smith, who travelled summers for the Winsted Scythe Co., was often the winter teacher in the West district and at the Rock School, which I attended, we had for winter teachers Julius Whiting, Egbert Norton, Ezra Stocking and Riley Padelford. Mr. Norton was by far the best liked. He was competent, patient and resourceful. For some of the more ambitious pupils he sometimes held an evening session. I remember one specially hard nut of an example in arithmetic which he could not make plain to us by ordinary methods and so constructed an ingenious model of the box in question and we saw

and believed at once. I think none of his pupils could ever have forgotten that box.

Mr. Whiting was a well educated man and a good disciplinarian and a beautiful penman. He tried hard to make good writers of us but I do not remember that he succeeded in a single instance, which was certainly to our discredit. I did not attend school the winter Mr. Stocking taught but believe he was well liked.

Mr. Padelford was a handsome little dandy, but not much of a teacher. But I have always remembered gratefully his kindness on one most trying occasion and I am glad to record it here. If he was not much of a teacher he was very much of a gentleman. One evening I was sent to Mrs. Austin's for eggs but Mrs. Austin, because of her unpleasantness with Mr. Russell about her cows, refused to let me have any and her daughter, Hattie (who afterwards married Humphrey Dewell of Norfolk) declared that they would "give the eggs to the pigs before Russell should have any." Mr. Padelford, who boarded there and was in the room, seeing me ready to cry as I left the room, took his hat and walked home with me, comforting me by the way.

I was fond of all the women teachers in our school. They were: Mary Butler, our neighbor, Miss Ellen Ryan of South Sandisfield, and Miss Anna Hataway of New Hartford, who afterwards married and went to Winona, Minn., to live. She introduced singing into the school, to the great delight of all of us. Among the songs we used to sing were "Lilly Dale" and "Annie Lisle." Miss Tillie Norton, sister of Egbert, began a term one spring, but became sick and had to resign. She was a most attractive and interesting teacher and we mourned her departure.

I taught this school in the winter of 1877-78 and several of my pupils were my former school-mates. This was by far my very pleasantest experience as a teacher and I still have the little hand bell which I rang to call them in from their play. My good friend Irving Oles made for me several sets of light, wooden dumb-bells and the practice with these each day was a great delight to the children, largely, I think, because it was something new. Col. Henry S. Terrell wrote me many years after that these exercises were largely instrumental in awakening his latent love of military tactics.

Others of my flock that winter were Emery Terrill, brother of Henry, Anna and Julia, his sisters, Charles Hart, brother of Gilbert Hart, Ida and Rosie Simonds, Ed Simonds, for many years a merchant in Winsted, George, Ned, Jerry, Nora and Jennie Burkette, Mary Barry, afterwards the wife of

Joseph Carey of Winsted. Rosie Bettis wrote most wonderful compositions of imaginary travels, and memory lingers long over dark-eyed, conscientious, studious little Edith Barnes and sweet-faced Annie O'Connell, who died in her childhood. I can close my eyes and see them all now, in their little seats, eager and alert and I have followed their lives with deep interest and affection.

The examining and visiting committees of my teaching days were Mr. Eugene H. Barber, who was always most helpful and encouraging to a young teacher, Mr. Edward Carrington, who was also courteous and kind, but did not hesitate to suggest or criticize where he thought there was need of it. Rev. R. H. Maine, a Baptist minister of Robertsville, may have been mentally competent but he certainly was not gentlemanly, as he kept his feet elevated on his desk and puffed a cigar all the time he was exhibiting his learning in my examination. I was thankful to get my certificate and relieve myself of his presence.

Corporal punishment was not resorted to in those schools; it had had its day and gone. When it was considered necessary the "ruler" was generally used and left a stinging hand and a very revengeful pupil.

Some of the school books then in use were: Eaton's Arithmetics; Welle's Grammars; Quackenbosses' Histories and Progressive Readers. I do not recall the Geographies or Spellers—Webster's old, blue Spelling Book had been superseded but the general arrangement was much the same in the new book, from the column beginning with "baker" to the eight syllable columns beginning with "incomprehensibility." The method of spelling was to spell the first syllable, pronouncing it, spell the next, pronounce that, then both syllables together and so on, after this manner: i-n, in; c-o-m, com; p-r-e, pre; incompre, etc. It took some time to spell it, but when we were through we knew our word.

The greatest amusement interest of the years I am recording was the "Band of Hope," which met once a month in the basement of the Congregational Church. People of all ages were admitted if they signed the pledge and paid their dues. The pledge was against tobacco, as well as intoxicating liquors but we admitted some men like Mr. Reuben Rockwell who were tobacco addicts and placed "ex-tobacco," after their names. "Extobes," we called them. The badge was a nickel plated star with "Band of Hope" in black letters, and proud we were to be the wearers of it.

This Band was a great forum for our youthful geniuses. A stage was erected in the basement of the Congregational

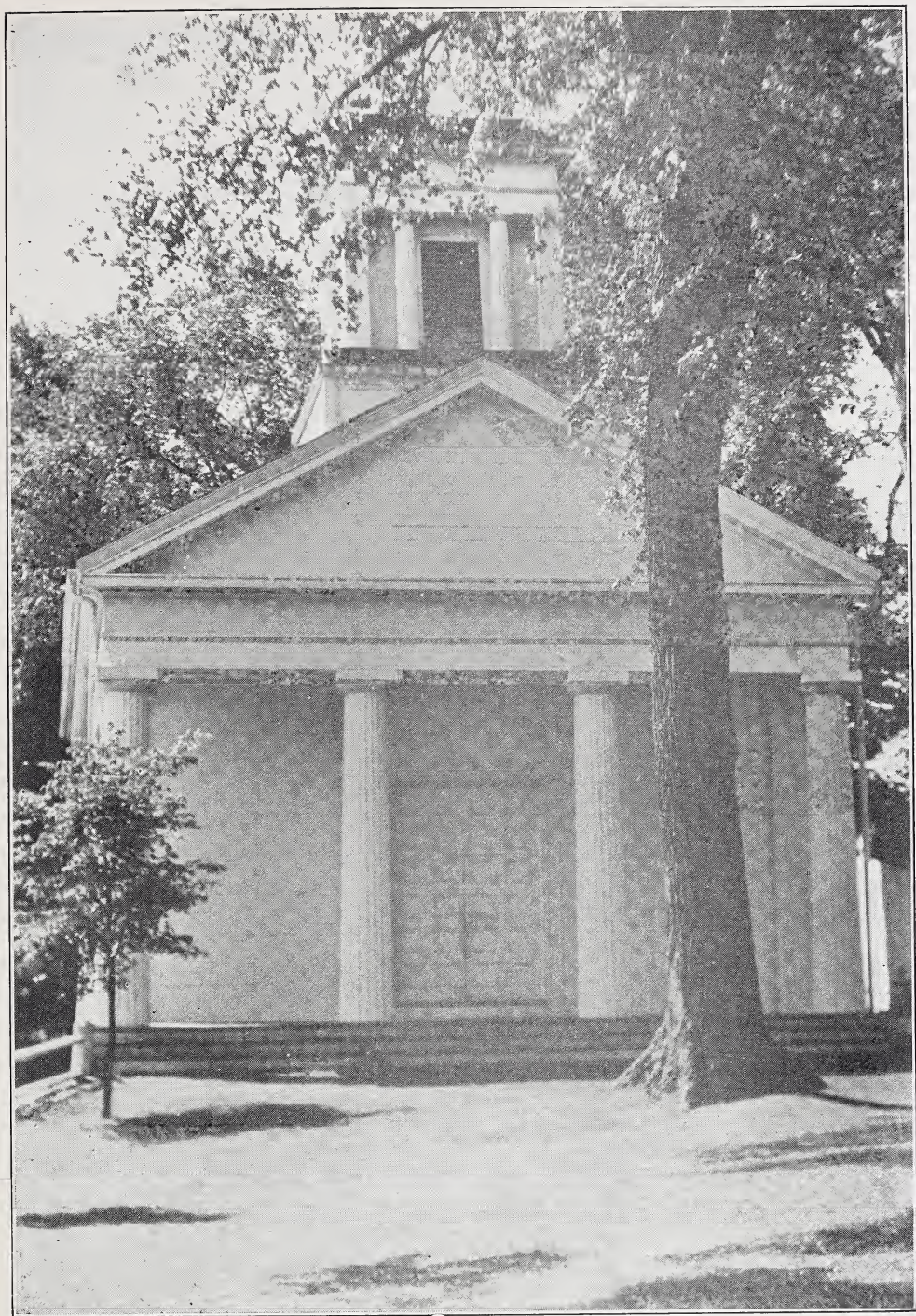
Church, where the meetings were held, and a dressing room provided on either end by means of heavy curtains strung on wires. This basement was also used as a balloting place on election days and our souls were tried by having to remove our stage for these occasions. The prayer meetings, which were also held here, did not interfere, as the attendance was never so large but that the minister could sit in front of the stage.

As I remember it now, I think that Mr. Hiram Smith was the President of the Band during most of its existence and he took a most kindly interest in it and all its performers. Mr. Ezra Stocking was also a prominent member. People came from far and near to attend our frequent "exhibitions" and visions of a stage career must have danced before the eyes of many of us. My own ardor was somewhat dampened by the unappreciative attitude of Mr. Russell.

At one of the meetings Mr. Smith read, with great dramatic effect that temperance classic of those days, "The Drunkard's Wife," which began in this way: "Dark is the night; no light; no fire. Cold on the hearth the last faint sparks expire." The minor chords of life have always seemed to have a sort of fascination for me, and that recitation took my fancy. In the days following I practiced and practiced reading and reciting it, and when it came my time to appear on the stage I came proudly forward and recited it, expecting that the same measure of applause that had attended Mr. Smith's recital would be mine. But, to my surprise and consternation, the audience did not seem enthused and when I returned home Mr. Russell called me into his study and told me that it was a cause of great embarrassment to him that I should for a moment have dared to think I could give that recitation after Mr. Smith had given it in such a masterly manner. I felt for a time as if I were an outcast from society but Mr. Smith was kindness itself to me.

Our star performer was Edgar Emmons, grandson of Father Donney. He was known as the "Boy Orator" and seemed rather remarkable to us at that time. I lost track of him many years ago, but have often wondered if he amounted to anything in later life.

Another social organization of great interest to us girls was the Sewing Circle, called "Laurel Leaves," where we made the most wonderful needle books, emery bags to look like strawberries and various other useful articles. We met once in two weeks and, once a year, when the city people were with us, we had a sale and sent the proceeds to Mrs. Julia Twining of New Haven for missionary uses. Miss Mary Butler, who presided over us, was patience and kindness personified and



*First Congregational Church, Colebrook, built in 1842 (measure for
measure from a church attributed to Bulfinch)*

we were most fortunate to have such a leader. Two of our most enthusiastic summer workers were Annie and Mary Gilbert.

Our most enjoyable amusement during the summer was the Fourth of July picnic at the Church, to which everybody, old and young, went. A collection was taken up beforehand for lemons and sugar and the young men of the parish made the lemonade in great, new wooden tubs, lent by storekeepers for the occasion. The boys also put up the strong swings on the lawn in front of the Church, which at that time was shaded by beautiful great elms.

The flag was raised on the tall liberty pole and sometimes we had an orator, who, in the spread-eagle style of the time, dwelt on the grandeur of our nation's history. But the chief event of the day in the opinion of us youngsters, came about one o'clock, when the women had spread a feast fit for kings under the great maple tree (or was it an oak?) on the lower level of the lawn, opposite the entrance to the basement.

If the day proved stormy the exercises took place in the basement and the feast was spread there. That dear old basement room! What memories cluster round it! Of these occasionally unpleasant Independence days—its solemn prayer meetings when we were brought face to face with our inherent sinfulness and its remedy—and our Band of Hope meetings attracting an audience from miles away.

We children were usually well supplied with torpedoes and small firecrackers on the Fourth and we rose early to celebrate. I remember one year when I must have been in an unusually patriotic mood, for my supplies were exhausted early in the day and I borrowed some money of the hired man and made another trip to Mr. Wheeler's store. It took me all the rest of the summer to repay him, but he was a good sport and didn't "snitch."

In the winter, parties at the homes of the young people were given at intervals. These parties were not much approved of by Mr. and Mrs. Russell, but I was allowed to go occasionally. Games like Copenhagen, Needle's Eye and Drop the Handkerchief were popular and at some of the homes dancing was allowed but never card playing. The dancing was usually in the big kitchen and often the dust got so stifling that the boys had to sprinkle the floor. The favorite dance tunes were "Money Musk" and "Irish Washerwoman." Tom Dewey was usually the fiddler and the whole orchestra. The last party of the winter was often a "sugaring off" at the home of Mr. Hiram Sage, when the maple sap was running. The syrup was served to us in little wooden bowls called porringers

and we stirred it into sugar, or made wax by spreading it on great milk pans full of snow. Once in a while a bad boy would offer old Carlo, the Shepherd dog, a lump of wax and delightedly watch his frantic efforts to get his jaws loose from it. But, having disposed of it, he was always eager to get another lump.

As I remember it now, the favorite meeting places were the homes of Mr. Sage, Mr. Harvey Coy and Mr. Joseph Twin-
ing.

The leading beaux at these gatherings were Tim Coy, Mer-
riman Butler, Horace White, Orie Miller, Charles Marvin,
Lewis Dewey, Luther Phelps, Sylvester Smith, Albert Twin-
ing and Lonnie Brayman. The latter was rather the star beau,
as he had the best team and wore a stovepipe hat, but Tim
Coy, with his droll humor and good looks, was a great favorite
and later on my friend, Ann Moorehouse, succumbed to his
charms and became his wife. Some of the belles of these parties
were: Mattie Smith, Mary Coy, Kate Twining, Alice and
Anna Marvin, Eunice Sage and Cora Phelps.

We never put off a party on account of snow storm and
sometimes we were dumped out when ploughing through
drifts, but that only added to the fun. The young people
nearer my own age were Hattie Hart, Ada Parker (who
lived at Mr. Edward Carrington's), Will Smith and his sister,
Hattie, Howard and Gertrude Smith, Charlotte Sage and her
brothers Frank and Charles, George Sackett, Nellie North,
Jessie Corbin, Ralph and Stella Barnard and Jimmie Royce,
who lived at Mr. Martin Phelps'.

Singing School was another activity of the winter season.
I never could sing much, though I used to try, and this drew
from Mr. Russell one of his frequent witticisms. He said I sang
for my own amusement and other people's amazement. In
spite of this I was allowed to go to the Singing School some-
times, but Sterie Weaver, the teacher, was a stern disciplin-
arian and we did not get as much fun out of it as we would
have liked. Those who came to play remained to sing or
were sent home.

Among the events of these years I recall with especial
pleasure the occasional coming of Lucien Burleigh to lecture
on temperance. He was a big, jovial, handsome man, who
looked something like James G. Blaine and was a most force-
ful speaker. He always stayed at our house and entertained
us with good stories. I recall one of a woman where he was
entertained who tried to catch him unawares by serving him
brandied cherries. He fished up the cherries and ate them,
leaving the syrup in the dish, so she could not accuse him of

drinking brandy. Another lecturer who used to come was a Mr. Pratt, a genial, baldheaded man, but not nearly as popular with us as Mr. Burleigh.

One golden evening came the Hutchinson Singers, with their flowing locks and wide open collars and oh! how they could sing! Another most enjoyable evening was an organ recital by Rev. Rodney Tabor, who had just married Mr. Ezra Stocking's sister, Hattie. He told us how to listen to music in order to get the most enjoyment from it. One thing was to watch attentively for all the lower, sweeter notes.

The greatest of the red letter days was the Fourth of July of 1876. In addition to the usual attractions was a wonderful parade, when Mr. Riley Stillman (who was a Beech Hill native of Colebrook) came over from Norfolk with his ox cart and a group of us rode in it all about the Center, dressed in the most marvelous old time costumes, loaned for the occasion. The music in attendance upon us was of the fife and drum. The oxen were evidently astonished at the doings but kept their heads and sedately paraded us around.

Another red letter day in our history was the Centennial celebration of the Congregational Church, which occurred about this time. Mr. Russell preached a most interesting historical sermon and the day was one of intense interest and enjoyment to the members of the Church.

Although it may seem to be rather a drop from the sublime to the ridiculous and may indicate that our tastes were rather vulgar, yet it is necessary in the interests of truthfulness to confess that a red letter day of no small importance each year was "butchering day." The refinements of those days did not require that the tragic death of the pigs should be kept from the sight of the children and, although I always got as far away as possible from the sights and sounds, there was always an admiring crowd from the School House during recess peering through the fence. Lottie Miles, a girl who lived at the Center, was heard to say one day, "Oh, my! I don't like to hear the pigs squeal," but her more practical sister replied, "Well, I do. It sounds as if we were going to have something to eat." And this "something to eat" was the great and important result to most of us. The delicious spare-ribs, the pickled "souse" and later on the hams, sausage and head cheese, can never be forgotten by any of us. The sausage machine, a partnership affair owned by the neighborhood, went the rounds; the hams were put in brine and then smoked in the old smoke-house. Lastly, the pork was salted down for use through the year. Usually soon after the butchering came the making of

the boiled cider apple sauce, made from sweet apples and cider boiled down to syrup, a most delicious breakfast dish.

The first great sorrow that I remember was the death of Miss Nellie Stillman, daughter of Riley Stillman and granddaughter of Tracy Whiting of Colebrook. She was teaching school in the South district when taken sick and the trouble proved to be typhoid fever.

She was a most attractive and winning young person, ardently devoted to music, and though several years my senior, I was, with all the enthusiasm of a young girl, deeply devoted to her. I can recall vividly my misery during her illness and my despair at her death. It occurred in the autumn season, most romantic but saddest of the year. I attended her funeral and followed with the rest her body to the Central Cemetery in Norfolk.

In those days the Church bell began tolling when the funeral procession came into view and continued till it arrived at the cemetery. As if our hearts were not sad enough already without this added touch of gloom! It was many weeks before I recovered anything like a cheerful frame of mind.

As a sample of the obituary of those days, the following by dear old Deacon A. G. Phelps of Norfolk may be of interest. His daughter, Mary, was an intimate friend of Nellie's:

"She loved God, the Only-Wise,
And thought the world was vain,
Her hopes she built beyond the skies,
For such to die is gain.

"That lovely one, to us so dear,
Sleeps peaceful in the grave.
Her spirit soared to Jesus' fold,
Who died her soul to save.

"Great God; it was thy sovereign will
To send the chastening rod.
Let every rising thought be still,
And know that Thou are God."

Another most tragic and depressing event was the running away of Mr. Lucian Bass' horse one Sunday morning, when his niece, Miss Butler, was driving to church with her mother, her grandmother and her Aunt Elvira. Some part of the harness broke on the hill west of our house and the horse broke into a frantic run, throwing out his load in front of the Rock Schoolhouse. The grandmother was dead when they took her up and both of Mrs. Butler's legs were broken.

Miss Butler and Miss Elvira escaped serious injury. Weeks of gloom and suffering followed during which time Mr. and Mrs. Russell carried almost daily aid and comfort to the stricken house.

The death of Carrie Allen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Allen, and, later on, that of her sister Minnie in the Tariffville disaster cast a dark shadow over us who were their friends and playmates and over the whole community.

The burning of Gen. Phelps' barn caused great excitement in the whole town. It was supposed to have been set on fire by a Negro named John Ten Eyck, who was afterwards executed for murder in Pittsfield.

Another sad occurrence was the dying from yellow fever of Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox (I think they were the parents of Mr. E. P. Wilcox). They were missionaries in the Sandwich Islands and came to visit Mrs. Wilcox's sister, Mrs. Nelson Barnard. The neighbors were almost in a panic of fear of the disease and the Barnards had a hard time, but I remember that Mr. Russell faithfully visited the house and did everything he could to help them.

Still another tragedy that occurred at our house was the death of Willie Ryan, son of Simon Ryan, who lived just over the line in Norfolk. He was riding home from one of our Band of Hope exhibitions with Mr. Egbert Norton and his sister when he suddenly fell over unconscious near our house and was brought in. His mother was partially insane, and when she came, made the night hideous with her ravings. Our neighbor, Mr. Carey, was called in to help quiet her. Willie was a very promising boy and his death brought sorrow to us all.

Another thing that happened at our house and assumed the proportions of a tragedy to us, at the time, was the stealing of our beautiful dapple gray horse, "Jimmie," by a man named James Berkeley, who came along asking for work and was hired by Mr. Russell. The discovery was made one Sunday morning and though Mr. Russell put sleuths on the job at once who tracked him to Poughkeepsie, no further trace of him was ever found. The thief not only took the horse, buggy and harness, but also the roast chicken ready for our Sunday dinner and two pies which Abbie Cleveland, our "hired girl" of that period, had made the day before. When she discovered their loss she exclaimed, "I wish I'd pizened 'em." Years afterwards Mrs. Russell, when visiting Dannemora Prison in Northern New York, thought she saw James Berkeley among the prisoners. With the permission of the Warden she asked him if he was not the man who took our horse. But he denied it, saying, "I've done a great many wicked things in my life, ma'am, but I never yet stole a horse."

Fashions of those Days

Hoop skirts were still worn in 1868, but they were abbreviated ones and the full and much be-flounced skirt was drawing in. Later came the bustle, chignon and Grecian Bend. "Rats" were used to comb the hair over to form a pompadour and sometimes the flowing hair was confined in long nets, some of them decorated with beads. The bonnets were tied with wide, long ribbons making a great bow under the chin.

During the years of which I am writing, these bonnets ranged in size from the "poke" to a narrow strip of braided straw, or horsehair, covered with flowers or autumn leaves.

Croquet slippers with wide flaps and immense buckles were quite the thing for afternoon wear and Congress gaiters were still worn, and men strode about with trousers tucked into high-top boots.

Delaine, French gingham and calico were the materials of which most of my frocks were made, but one garment dear to memory was my "redingote," a long, double-breasted coat-like dress of blue flannel trimmed with black velvet collar, cuff, pocket lids and buttons. It reminded me of Napoleon's campaign coat and at the time Napoleon was one of my great heroes.

The tight basque, the dolman, the overskirt and the polonaise, with ribbon bows down the front, were much worn and some of the costumes were not so ugly on good looking women.

The materials mostly used for women's gowns were bombazine and cashmere, soft, clinging fabrics, and alpaca, a stiff, wiry, glossy cloth that I never liked.

Industries

The only industries beside farming that I remember were the Paper Mill, Gen. Phelps' Saw Mill, both on the Sandy Brook road, and the new Cheese Factory in North Colebrook.

The Paper Mill employed only a few people, but was considered quite an asset to the town. The Superintendent was John W. Bliss and Mr. Hiram Sage did the trucking, carrying to Winsted for shipment the great bales of finished goods and returning with the bales of rags and jute. I often used to visit this mill with my playmates, Charlotte and Susie Sage, and the machinery was always a fascination to me. I did not like the great vats of ill-smelling pulp but was never tired of watching the finished paper coming over the great cylinders and the great shears cutting it into sheets and laying them on the table beneath.

The Saw Mill was of the old type with upright saw and the log was laid on a railroad and gradually moved up to meet

the saw. We children were often allowed to ride on the railroad behind the log and it was considered great fun.

I do not seem to remember much about the cheese factory though I often used to ride there with the cans of milk that went from our farm, and the whey was brought back and fed to the pigs. If I remember correctly the pigs were not very fond of it. The project could not have been much of a success, as it did not long continue in operation and the great building stood vacant for many years.

Some of the people living in the vicinity of the Paper Mill, which was just at the entrance of the Beech Hill road were John and Henry Sage (the latter the sawyer at Gen. Phelps' mill), Mr. James Cobb and his wife, who was known as "Aunt Jim," Miss Sally Peck, a spinster who worked in the mill, and further along towards Beech hill lived Mr. Hiram Bliss and Mr. Nelson Hitchcock. Farther down the Sandy Brook road lived two respected Irish residents, George Burkette and Patrick Sullivan.

There were cotton mills at Colebrook River but I did not know much about them. Most of the residents of the town were engaged in farming and they seemed to make a comfortable living and some of them laid up money.

Eccentric Characters

Probably the most eccentric character who ever tramped the roads of Colebrook was known as "Old Leonard," the essence peddler. He was tall, loose-jointed, lantern-jawed and painfully cadaverous. His shock of white hair added to his strange appearance and when his peculiar sense of humor produced an open smile his face was positively ghastly.

He carried slung across his left shoulder a pair of canvass saddlebags. In one of these were his essences (which were of excellent quality). In the other were Yankee notions, needles, pins, thread, shoe laces and, as he called them, "hanks" of linen thread. In his right hand he carried a wicker covered demijohn of alcohol as a solvent for his essences and camphor gum.

He was a keen trader and would haggle over a penny in a sale, but if he could not win it, would give it with a fatalistic smile. He had the reputation of being the demijohn's best customer, and one very cold night he came to our house so much under the influence of his potations that Mr. Russell did not dare to refuse him shelter, for fear he might freeze to death. It was a very embarrassing situation for us, as we had company and the old man was sick and noisy most of the night.

The next morning, after he had been given a warm breakfast, Mr. Russell charged him ten dollars for his night's lodg-

ing. He was amazed and distressed to the point of tears and pleaded to have the charge reduced, but Mr. Russell was insistent and threatened him with arrest for drunkenness unless it was paid. It was pitiful to see the old miser dole out the money, a half dollar at a time, vainly hoping to the last that his enemy would relent. It is needless to say that he never called at our house again. Years after I heard J. S. Wheeler say, "I always had a greater respect after that for Russell's smartness, for I don't believe anyone else could have ever got ten dollars out of Old Leonard in one morning."

Another peddler who carried things more attractive to me, like combs in cases, pencil cases, jews-harps, harmonicas, etc., was Robert McDowell Cleaveland, brother of Abbie, our housemaid. Robert was allowed to stop over night to visit with her.

These two were said (how truthfully I do not know) to owe their weak mental condition to the harsh treatment of their father, who used to travel round lecturing on "Salt."

The boys and girls of Colebrook used Robert for their perennial juvenile meanness, but though they tried to cheat him and get his money away they never succeeded, for both he and Abbie were smart enough to make and save money.

One of Abbie's chief pleasures was to handle and admire the treasures of her "chist," as she called it, which she brought with her when she came to our house. I was invited to admire the contents with her and I like to hope, at this distance, that I was not quite so mean to her and Robert as some of the other young folks, for I was sorry for them.

Abbie married Jirdan Smith, who possessed about the same degree of mentality, but together they bought a farm and made themselves independent. To the end of her life, whenever she met me, her sad face lighted up and she told me the joys and sorrows of her married life.

Charlie Squires was another queer chap, who used to go to our parties in spite of all the chaffing he had to endure from the more fortunate boys and girls. He had strange attacks of hysteria when he got excited and couldn't stop laughing, and of course we young savages tried often to bring on one of these attacks, for the fun of watching him. But I do not remember that there was ever anything meanly cruel in our actions, for he was a gentle, kindly young man and we all liked him, and he never seemed to bear any grudge against us. If the boys and girls could realize that some of the things they do in fun would haunt them all through life I am sure they would be more thoughtful.

Captain Cook was an odd fish and used to make periodical calls on his friends and acquaintances in Colebrook, Winsted and Winchester Center. He had the reputation of being an old

beau and having many lady friends. Among them were Gen. Phelps' sisters, the "Phelps Girls," as Aunt Mills used to call them. It was whispered that he often played cards with them till the wee, small hours.

Jacob Cobb, familiarly called "Uncle Jake," was one of those genial souls, whose daily bread came in some mysterious way, and not because he worked for it. When his tongue was limbered by a generous dose of "O be Joyful," as it used to be called, he could talk most entertainingly, and often with good sense. He had a son, Hiram, who was for many years a prominent citizen of Windsor, Conn., and two daughters, Jane, the wife of Samuel Sage of Norfolk, and Alzada, who married Edward Oles.

This same Edward Oles really belongs to our list of eccentrics; a gaunt, wrinkled, sad-faced man, who reminded me of the picture of Abraham Lincoln. He was a carpenter, and a most useful man in the town.

He had two sons, Ned and Irving, and after the death of their mother he lived alone with them in a cabin in the woods and brought them up in his own peculiar way. He thought out things for himself and often his theories were excellent. He was most kind hearted and devoted in his friendships. He made my first sled for me, he told me years afterwards, because he was touched by finding me one day trying to make one by nailing boards across two barrel staves. What that sled meant to me no one but myself knows.

His son, Ned, died early in life. He was a most beautiful penman and made drawings which I thought wonderful. He was of a dreamy temperament and not well equipped to battle with a hard world. He had married and lived in Canaan, and his father in telling me about him said: "I brought him home and laid him beside his mother."

Irving, the younger son, lived for some time at our house, working on the farm, and later followed his father's trade of carpentry. He realized his lack of education and devoted his evenings to earnest study of the writings of the greatest minds, till he became an excellent speaker on widely varied subjects. He afterwards went to California, never returning to his native town.

I expect eccentric is not just the term to apply to two notorious characters who lived at the Center, "Old Ryan" and "Old Connor," but I will make note of them here. They both lived on Water Street, and occasionally, during their drunken revels, made that thoroughfare an unsafe place for women to travel. Connor's favorite amusement was chasing his wife out of doors and around the house with a big stick and if he caught her he would beat her with it.

Mrs. Connor was the washer-woman and household assistant of the neighborhood and, in spite of her troubles, had a rosy face, like a winter apple, and a most hearty laugh. One of the ladies for whom she worked, indignant at the abuse to which she was subjected, offered to give her a home if she would leave the old brute, but the faithful soul considered her marriage a life contract and stuck it out to the end.

Ryan often used to come home drunk from attending church in Winsted and would start out to terrorize the neighborhood. Mrs. Ryan often tried to get him home but did not have much influence over him.

They had a daughter, Ellen, who married Martin Barry and was generally respected in the neighborhood.

The last of the eccentric personalities that I shall mention was Dea. James Mars, an old colored man and former slave.

He used to travel around selling a little pamphlet which some friends of his had printed him, telling of his life as a slave. He had been in the habit of stopping at Aunt Mills' hospitable home when he was in town and continued to stop after the Russells came. I have spent many an evening listening, entranced, to his stories of plantation life in slavery days.

My Favorite People

Before closing these very imperfect memories, I am according myself the privilege of dwelling for a little on those personalities with whom, as a child, I came most in contact and whom I especially liked. I will not repeat the names of those to whom I have already paid my tribute in these pages.

Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Rockwell stand out prominently in my memory, as they were often at our house. Mrs. Rockwell, whose maiden name was Aurelia Eno, was a niece of Aunt Mills. I was often also at their home, and, one summer when attending school at the Center under the tuition of Miss Ellen Bacon, a much loved teacher, I made my home at their house through the week. I assisted Mrs. Rockwell, who was a most exquisite housekeeper, in the work of the household and whatever of success I have ever attained in that line I owe largely to her instructions.

To the air of homely comfort always in evidence in her rooms, was often added an artistic touch that was always impressive to me as a child. To cite one example: Every afternoon she gathered the most beautiful of the maple leaves, pressed and then waxed them and arranged them over the fold-

ing doors between the parlor and sitting room. I think I have never picked up a lovely autumn leaf since then without thinking of Mrs. Rockwell.

Her personal appearance had the same exquisiteness. Always dressed with perfect taste and simple garments, rather frail in health, wrinkled, but always with a smile of appreciation and interest, she seems to me now, as I look back, like a piece of fine, fragile china.

As a cook she vied, in my opinion, with Mrs. John S. Wheeler and she made the most perfect rhubarb pie I ever tasted. I was often tempted to "sneak" a piece between meals from the great, home-made ice box in the "back room" of their house.

Mr. Rockwell was easily the most prominent man in the town, being nearly all his life either town clerk, postmaster or treasurer. At one time he held a federal office under President Grant, I think. He was a most genial man, interested in everybody, and to whom many came for advice and assistance, usually with satisfactory results. I was told by an old friend of his after his death that among his papers were found mortgage notes on the farms and homes of many people in the town and that his will directed that they should all be cancelled at his death. I could not vouch for the absolute truth of this but it certainly sounds very much like him.

He was a very devoted Republican but when Democrats were elected to offices whose duties they did not understand, as very often happened, they almost invariably came to him for instructions, which were always cheerfully given.

He cultivated his ancestral acres and among his former henchmen were Bernard Barry, "Jim" Miles and Luther Sparks. They were all devoted to him and to his interests, both agriculturally and politically.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Rockwell were very fond of children and, as they had none of their own, they paid a great deal of attention to all the children of the town and were much liked by them. Many were the Christmas presents we received from them and even now I can recall some of mine and the delight they gave me. One Christmas it was a frock pattern of Merrimack calico, the very best to be had in calicos, and I still have a piece of that dress in the block of a bed quilt, and it has never faded out.

Mr. Rockwell loved dearly to tease his wife. As I have said, she was a fine cook and, like any wife, liked to have her efforts appreciated by her husband, whom she adored, but, out of pure mischief, he would never praise anything. One day when I was having dinner with them and the most de-

Collected
Interned
Revenue

licious biscuits were being served, Mrs. Rockwell said: "Reuben, don't you think the biscuits are good?" "Why, yes, my dear, but don't you think it would have sounded better if someone else had said it?" A discouraged look came over her face, while he chuckled and winked at me.

He used to make a great fuss about what he called her dishonesty in taking off a little "top of the milk" from the great cans, set in a tub of water to cool, and destined for the New York market; but if she had not done it I have not the least doubt that he would have got it himself. There was not a stingy hair in his fine, gray head.

He had a great aversion to patchwork quilts; said he couldn't see the sense of tearing up cloth and sewing it together again. When I first read "David Harum" I called him Reuben Rockwell, for a keen sense of humor was one of his greatest attractions.

Once, in the last years of his life, I got him to talk about his boyhood days. He told of one of his teachers, named Nancy Barker, who once pulled a whole tuft of hair from the head of one of the boys. He said: "I vowed that when I got big enough I would thrash that old woman." But she died before that time came (I think she must have been one of the old "dame school" teachers).

Describing an old time "General Training" he said the boys all despised the officer in command that day, who appeared in fine uniform with immaculate white trousers. "It had rained the night before and Capt. —— happened to stand opposite a mud puddle when we marched past him. We all slapped our feet down hard into the puddle and splashed those beautiful white trousers." And he chuckled at the remembrance.

In talking politics with me one day, he said, with a twinkle in his eye: "If a man's bound to sell his vote anyway, the Republican party might as well be first on the ground and get it." A decidedly David Harum speech.

Mr. Rockwell was not what orthodox people would call a religious man, but he always attended church and helped support it and was one of the most consistent practicers of the Golden Rule I ever knew. I heard him say once: "The Lord ain't guilty of half the things that are laid to him." He didn't like so-called "revivals" any more than I did and, speaking of one such service he said: "The minister asked everyone who knew they were saved to stand. Everybody stood but Caroline Corbin and me." (This was Mrs. Peter Corbin, a most intelligent woman, who did her own thinking.)

I was present when his sister, Elizabeth, passed away. The tears of the woman who had been her housekeeper and companion for years were falling over the dead body of her friend. Mr. Rockwell said: "Don't feel so badly, Miss ———, it's just as natural to die as it is to be born." This sister, Miss Elizabeth Rockwell, lived at the old homestead till her death and cared many years for her invalid sister, Mrs. Louise Bass, (a widow of Giles Bass. In spite of this confinement she found time for some outside activity and was for many years teacher of the young men's class in Sunday School. She exerted much such an influence over young men as her cousin, Miss Mary Hinsdale, did in Winsted. Like all the Rockwells, she had a certain aristocratic dignity which discouraged any offensive familiarity, but her nature was genial, jovial and sympathetic. She and her cousin, Miss Charlotte Rockwell, had the most beautiful flower gardens I ever knew except my grandmother's in Essex, Conn. I have tried all my life to imitate those gardens but without marked success. A gate from each opened into the "West Road," which separated them, and the cousins often visited each others gardens, compared notes and exchanged suggestions. To me, at this distance, it seemed an almost ideal life they lived in those days.

It seemed a coincidence that the last years of both lives were clouded by mental decay. Miss Charlotte's attitude, during those trying years was one of cheerfulness, Miss Elizabeth's one of deep depression and gloom. Both had exceptionally fine attendants, and Mr. Rockwell, who outlived both, was in and out, cheering and comforting, and often his eyes would fill with tears.

When it came his turn to go he sat by the open fire in the old house as long as he was able, then laid him down in the room that had been his sister's, and sent for his faithful Luther Sparks, who stayed by him till the end, which was not far off. It seemed that he managed his dying in the same business-like manner that he had his living.

He loved life, with all its progressiveness, but accepted the end of it philosophically and bravely. He said to me once in his last days: "I'd like to live to see all the farms and country homes lighted by electricity, but, of course, I shall not."

Another member of the Rockwell family, cousin of these others, was Miss Sophia, a little woman who always had a flustered, frightened look and lived alone in the big house her father left her in Water Street. Such a quiet, uneventful life she lived that it seemed almost an apology for living at all. She entered heartily into the life of certain young

"Aunt Libby"

people who lived near her and they were fond of her. She had a brother, Henry Rockwell, who lived in Washington, D. C., and who looked like George Washington. The great events in her life were his occasional visits to her.

*Author of
it*

Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Sackett and Mr. and Mrs. William A. Smith, people living near the Center, I always liked very much as a child. As I think of it now, I believe the reason was largely because they always talked to me as though I were as old as they and therefore must be interested in what they said. I remember that Mr. Smith and I sometimes had arguments over knotty problems when I was visiting his daughter, Hattie, and Mrs. Smith's motherly kindness has never faded from my memory. Mr. Sackett was a model farmer of his few acres and a very public spirited man. The sides of the highway abutting on his premises were always clear of bushes and as scrupulously mowed by him as his own meadows.

He had a general charge of the cemeteries of the town, if I remembre correctly, but I do not think he was ever paid anything for his services.

Mrs. Sackett was a meek looking, quiet little woman with a pleasant smile; a great home body, a model housekeeper and a good mother to her three boys, Grove, George and Frank.

Among the younger women of those days who interested me were the "Carrington girls," Kate and Sarah; Susan Whiting, Mary Phelps and Mary Smith.

Misses Sarah and Kate Carrington have lived practically all their lives at the old home and have been deeply interested in all that concerned the welfare of the church and town. They have had as guests during the summers, people of culture and distinction who have added to the social and mental attractions of the town. These two women, simple in their tastes, lovers of natural beauty, with high ideals and splendid common sense, have been for all these years one of Colebrook's greatest assets.

Miss Mary Phelps, who died before reaching middle age, was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralzemon Phelps. Her father and mother went about very little, but she and her uncle, Charles Phelps, who lived with them, despite the difference in their ages, were great chums, and enjoyed much the same things and went out together a great deal.

Mr. Phelps was eminently a gentleman of the old school; tall, with plentiful white hair and an almost ascetic face. He was like Mr. Lucien Bass, a scholarly man and deeply interested in the public welfare.

*+ brother being Rev. Lemuel Woodbury Bacon & his
daughter, and also
Carrington, whose
father was a professor at Yale.*

Miss Phelps had a delicate, refined face and interested me on account of her kindly manner and interesting conversation. She was an idealist and something of a poet.

Miss Susan Whiting was one of the most useful, most interesting women I ever met. She was the daughter of Tracy Whiting and sister of Mrs. William Smith and of Mrs. Riley Stillman. She also had two other sisters, Julia, who married Horton Pease, of Thomaston, and Jennie, who married Norman Pond, of Torrington.

Tracy Whiting had a reputation of not being over fond of work, but he certainly produced a fine crop of daughters. Miss Susan, as she was familiarly called, was tall, rather thin, but with a most kindly face and always immaculate in her dress. All her younger years were spent as a teacher, usually in the town, and while her father lived she was also his housekeeper. In late life she acted as companion and housekeeper for elderly women, among whom were Miss Charlotte Rockwell and Mrs. John S. Wheeler. She was, with her kindness, patience and Yankee common sense, a tower of strength to those who were fortunate enough to secure her services.

I have purposely left to the last the name of Mary Smith, daughter of Milton Smith, the sweetest, most saintly young woman I ever knew. She was my fellow pupil the summer I attended Miss Bacon's School at the Center and together we committed to memory long sections of Quackenboss' old History, as the fashion of the time was.

Later on we were together in the State Normal School in New Britain, and attended the same church in that city. We were both in the science class of Prof. William B. Dwight, who afterwards went to Vassar College and remained there till his death. We were in the Sunday School class of Prof. Ralph Hibbard, a most genial man, who was also our teacher of elocution in the Normal School.

Mary was like an older sister to me and had a great influence over me. She was a great favorite in the school; charming in her manner, with a sympathetic interest in everybody and deeply spiritual in her perceptions. She thought this a beautiful world and that everybody ought to be happy in it and did her best to make them so. Always frail in body, she did not live to follow the teaching profession for which she had fitted herself, but died in 1879 and was laid beside her father and mother in the forlorn little cemetery in North Colebrook.

In that cemetery, the one at the Center, and the one in the south part of the town known as the "Old Burying Ground," lie the ashes of most of these old friends of mine.

God bless the memories of these kindly, earnest hearted men and women, boys and girls of Old Colebrook from 1868 to 1877. If our hope of a life to come in which we shall find again our lost friends proves true, as I believe it will; if, in what Bishop Doane calls our "Easter after Lent," these old neighbors and comrades of mine shall hold out hands of welcome as I enter in, then I must needs be happy in their happiness, and who knows what stories of these old days we may rehearse!

The Story of the Flag

By KATHARINE CARRINGTON

When the war broke out in 1861 the Republicans of Colebrook collected money among themselves, bought a flag and raised it on a flagpole on the church green.

The Democrats of Colebrook, equally loyal and patriotic, resented their exclusion, collected money also, bought the flag, whose story I am writing, and raised it upon a hickory pole set by the roadside just at the head of the Center Hill. For two seasons both flags flew daily, the flag of our story being in custody of Edwin Carrington.

One autumn evening Mr. Carrington came home after dark from a day's drive and forgot to take in the flag. For a day or two thereafter it was raining and he did not have occasion to put it out. When a pleasant day came he looked for the flag and it was not to be found; and then he remembered the evening when he forgot to take it in. He kept silence.

That autumn, Miss Louise Wright, afterwards Mrs. John Sevmour, opened a private school in the room over the post-office, occupied by Mr. Reuben Rockwell, the postmaster and Republican political leader, who employed as storekeeper Mr. John de Wolfe, a Democrat.

Mr. Carrington's sisters, Sarah and Katharine, were among the pupils and one morning Sarah went up into the attic at recess to struggle with a geography lesson. As she sat on the top stair, intent on studying, her eyes wandered around the attic and rested on a bit of red bunting hanging out of a covered basket. She investigated. It was the flag! When she went home at noon, she returned wearing a long cloak. At the close of school she went up into the attic, wound the flag around her body, put on the cloak and walked home..

The Carringtons kept silence and so did the thief.

Sixty years after, Sarah Carrington presented the flag to the Ladies' Church Aid Society.

Flag account, October 1, 1861:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Cost of flag | \$25.00 |
| Refreshment for military | 3.00 |
| Powder | 1.50 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$29.50 |

RECEIPTS

| | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|---------------------------|------|
| H. W. Pinney | \$1.00 | Richard Stanwood | 1.00 |
| J. Pinney | 1.00 | E. A. Phelps | 2.00 |
| E. Carrington | 1.00 | E. A. Phelps, Jr. | 1.00 |
| E. Carrington, Jr., | 1.00 | J. H. Stanwood | 1.00 |
| E. T. Carrington | 1.00 | Clark H. Roberts | 1.00 |
| L. M. Terrell | 1.00 | Harvey Deming | 1.00 |
| Henry Terrell | 1.00 | Wolcott Deming | 1.00 |
| L. H. Benham | 1.00 | Dan'l DeWolf | 1.00 |
| T. Hart | 1.00 | J. DeWolf | 1.00 |
| L. Barnard | 1.00 | Charles Decker | .50 |
| Harvey L. Coy | 1.00 | Collection by Geo. Austin | 2.00 |
| Harry Smith | .50 | Erastus Simons | .50 |
| Wm. H. Smith | .50 | James Stillman | .50 |
| O. S. Hill | .50 | | |

COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM OF THE TOWN
OF COLEBROOK

*One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of Its Incorporation
Held August 31st, 1929*

MORNING PROGRAMME

10:30 to 11:00 A. M.—

Gathering of Citizens in the costume of the day

11:00 A. M.—

Flag raising—Col. H. S. Terrell, Commanding

Salute—15 guns

Bugle Call—"Attention"

Invocation—Rev. Edgar Tilton, Jr., D. D.

Raising the Flag

Bugle Call—"Salute to the Colors"

Articles of Incorporation

Mr. E. A. Simons

Selection by Central School Band of Winsted

11:15 A. M. to 12:15 P. M.—

Episodes of Ye Olden Days

12:15 to 12:30 P. M.—

Parade—Citizens and Episodes

Central School Band of Winsted

12:30 to 2:00 P. M.—

Lunch and general renewing of old acquaintances

10:30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.—

Historical exhibit in the basement of the Church.

It will also be open on Sunday, September 1,
from 12:00 noon to 1:00 P. M. and from 2:30
P. M. until 5:00 P. M.

AFTERNOON

Mr. Robert Kelly Prentice—*Moderator*

2:00 P. M.—

Salute—15 Guns

Bugle Call—"Attention"

"Hail Columbia"—Quartette

Invocation—Rev. James G. Robertson, Pastor

Congregational Church, Colebrook

Music—Central School Band of Winsted

Song—"America"

Address—Rev. John Calvin Goddard, St. D.
Pastor Emeritus, Salisbury Congrega-
tional Church

“The Dignity of the Small Town”

Song—“America the Beautiful”

Address—Dr. William Mather Lewis,
President, Lafayette College

“Colebrook Today”

Song—“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

Friends, Neighbors, Citizens, Songs, Music

Miss Katherine Carrington, Colebrook

Hon. James P. Glynn, Winchester

Mr. Dudley L. Vaill, Winchester

Mr. G. F. Hurd, Colebrook

Mr. Philip Curtis, Norfolk

Mr. J. G. Stoddard, Colebrook

Mr. Leon A. Coe, Barkhamsted

Mr. H. S. Vincent, Colebrook

“Auld Lang Syne”

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Mr. N. F. Thompson, Jr., Chairman

(Succeeded by Mrs. N. F. Thompson, Jr., 1934)

Mr. W. W. Cooper, Secretary

Mr. Albert C. Griffin

Mr. M. J. Gilman, Treasurer

Mrs. E. A. Seymour

Mr. Lester N. Smith

Mr. Joseph A. Rowley

Mrs. Mary A. Horax

Mr. Calvin B. Humphrey

Mr. H. P. Deming

Mrs. A. B. Johnson

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

Mr. L. N. Smith, Chairman

Mrs. Montgomery Tiers

Mr. E. J. Merritt, Vice-Chairman

Mr. E. B. Twining

Mr. R. Lawrence, Vice-Chairman

Mr. H. L. Culver

Mr. C. Deming, Vice-Chairman

Mr. Henry Vining

Mr. W. W. Cooper, Vice-Chairman

Mrs. W. E. Hinchliff

Mrs. Etta Smith

Mrs. Jules Prevo

Miss Gertrude Smith

Mr. Charles A. Mattson

Mrs. C. B. Humphrey

Mr. William E. Wylls

Mr. Gus Durst

Mr. John O. Northway

Miss E. M. Anderson

Miss Florence Brownell

Mrs. Robert Fritz

Mr. Robert V. Tomlinson

Mr. Charles Lawrence

Mr. James O'Neil

Mrs. Mabel A. Newell

Mr. James Otto

GUESTS OF HONOR

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. Adelaide Adams | Col. H. S. Terrell |
| Mrs. Ellen Barnes | Mr. Eugene Bourquin |
| Mrs. Harriet Cooper | Mr. George J. Whipple |
| Miss Sarah Carrington | Mrs. Ruth Carpenter |
| Miss Katherine Carrington | Mr. Dudley L. Vaill |
| Mrs. Clara Norton | Hon. James P. Glynn |
| Mr. Horace White | Mr. George F. Hurd |
| Mr. J. A. Deming | Mr. H. F. Vincent |
| Mr. Carrington Phelps | Rev. Roscoe Vining |
| Miss Rocelia DeWolf | Mrs. Ellen MacCormack |
| Mr. Abram Blinn | Mr. Leon A. Coe |
| Mrs. B. S. Beecher | Rev. James G. Robertson |
| Mr. J. G. Stoddard | Mrs. A. M. Perry |
| Mrs. Samuel Wetmore | Mr. James Martin |

INVITATION COMMITTEE

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. Lester N. Smith | Miss Gertrude Smith |
|---------------------|---------------------|

COMMITTEE ON HISTORICAL DATA

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. Albert C. Griffin, Chairman | Mr. Carrington A. Phelps |
| Mr. Herbert F. Culver | Mr. Calvin B. Humphrey |

COMMITTEE ON HISTORICAL EXHIBIT

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. N. F. Thompson, Jr., Chairman | Mrs. Albert C. Griffin |
| Mrs. E. A. Seymour | Mrs. Ruth Deming |
| Mrs. C. B. Humphrey | Mrs. Ralph Howe |
| Mrs. H. P. Deming | Mrs. G. F. Hurd |
| Miss Gertrude Smith | Mrs. William M. Wheeler |
| Mrs. Mary A. Horrax | Mr. Frank Bowne |

HISTORIC EPISODES COMMITTEE

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mr. J. A. Rowley, Chairman | Mrs. W. W. Cooper |
| Mr. Carl Coleman | Mrs. M. J. Gilman |
| Mr. A. B. Johnson | Mr. Elliot B. Bronson, Director |

HISTORICAL HOMES

Mr. Emerson Hinchliff

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Mr. N. F. Thompson, Jr., Chairman | Mr. H. P. Deming |
| Mr. Lester N. Smith | Mr. W. W. Cooper |
| Mr. Albert C. Griffin | |

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mr. W. K. McGill, Chairman | Mr. N. F. Thompson, Jr. |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Joseph A. Rowley, Chairman
Mr. Robert Kelly Prentice

DRINKING WATER

Mr. Theodore Phillips

COMMITTEE ON MUSIO

Mr. A. C. Griffin, Chairman Mr. W. W. Cooper
Mr. M. J. Gilman

BADGES

Mr. H. P. Deming

COMMITTEE ON COSTUMES

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Mrs. H. F. Vincent, Chairman | Mrs. J. H. Whiting |
| Mrs. D. M. Keith | Miss Helen Seymour |
| Miss Adaline Wheeler | Mrs. Albert C. Griffin |
| Miss Mary A. Cooper | Mrs. Ruth Deming |
| Mrs. Erving Pruyn | Miss Elsie Nixon |

COMMITTEE ON REST ROOM

Mrs. Walter K. McGill Mrs. R. V. Tomlinson

COMMITTEE ON PARKING

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mr. J. W. R. Allen, Chairman | Mr. William Gray, Jr. |
| Mr. Robert Lawrence, Jr. | Mr. Robert Johnson |
| Mr. Burton Mills | Mr. Nathan Rowley |
| Mr. Spencer Deming | Mr. Felix Jasmin |

Mr. George Palmer

COMMITTEE ON REFRESHMENTS

Mr. H. P. Deming Mr. Joseph A. Rowley
Mr. M. J. Gilman

COMMITTEE ON SEATING

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. A. B. Johnson, Chairman | Mr. Wilbur Mills |
| Mrs. C. F. Stotts | Mr. Thomas O'Brien, Jr. |

Mr. A. B. Johnson

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Mr. James Otto, Chairman Mr. James O'Neil

CONSTRUCTION

Mr. Charles Mattson

COMMITTEE ON SALUTE

Mr. Jack Wagner Mr. Martin Haap

INFORMATION BUREAU

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Mrs. Ralph Deming | Mrs. Frank Lawrence |
| Mrs. Frank Williams | Mr. Frank Williams |
| Mrs. James Otto | |

MARSHALL OF THE DAY

Mr. Wyllys P. Smith

ASSISTANT MARSHALLS

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. Robert Lawrence | Mr. Ralph Cooper |
| Mr. Uno Stenman | Mr. Chester Corlett |
| Mr. Frank Williams | |

DECORATIONS IN CHARGE OF

Mr. Walter Fiston

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

Excerpts (reported stenographically) from the Sesqui-Centennial Program

MODERATOR: "Residents of Colebrook, friends and neighbors, it is my pleasant duty to extend on behalf of the town of Colebrook greetings to all here assembled. Mr. James G. Robertson, pastor of the Congregational Church of Colebrook, will invoke the Divine Blessing."

"REV. ROBERTSON: "Let us all bow our heads in prayer.

O God, the Mighty One, Thou art our father's God and we will praise Thee. We come to acknowledge Thy mercies unto us, O God, in all our history as a people.

"We thank Thee for our fathers and for the truth for which they stood. They have given to us thru Thy mercies and graces our churches, our schools, our institutions of mercy.

"Dear Heavenly Father, as Thou has blessed us in days gone by, in the future days wilt Thou be near us and wilt Thou grant unto us that as a people we may be at peace with all nations, and grant, O Lord, that influences may go forth from us that will bless the world and make it a better world in which to live.

"O Lord, hear our prayer. Grant us an answer, not for our much speaking, but for Thy mercy's sake, as revealed in Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom we shall give praise forever, world without end. Amen."

MODERATOR: "We have with us one of the higher State officers, Hon. William L. Higgins, and I am going to ask him to say a word."

MR. HIGGINS: "Mr. Chairman, Congressman Glynn and my good friend Mr. Goddard, guests and fellow citizens of Colebrook.

"I bring to you today the felicitations of the grand old State of Connecticut, and we are proud that we have so good a daughter as the Town of Colebrook. I want to say, however, that it is not one of the functions of the Secretary of State to go forth and give speeches. His function is largely signing his name to public documents, and I will state for your information that since assuming the office of Secretary of State on the 9th day of January, last, I have signed my name officially 24,469 times, and the end is not yet.

"The wooded hills and mossy dells of such towns as Colebrook have been the inspiration of poets and authors for many years and as time goes on their beauties lose none of their charm and inspiration, and we are thankful today that this town in common with other towns remembers and celebrates these milestones in the progress of her history.

"As a physician, I am interested in the fact that you are one of 45 towns in the State that has no resident doctor. Perhaps this bespeaks the healthfulness of the climate and the new conditions which have arisen and which make it more easily accessible to the larger centers.

"Again, may I express my pleasure at being here today?"

MODERATOR: "An old English poet begins his best-known poem with the words, 'The clock strikes one.' We take no note of time but from its loss. To give it then a tongue is wise in man, and so it is wise for us to note these anniversaries.

"The 150 years through which this town has safely passed have seen more far reaching and fundamental changes than any similar period of time since the days when, in the language of the Greek fable, 'man learned to ferment the fruit of the vine and civilization began.'

"When we consider these changes, we are apt to think first of the political changes, of the fall of great empires and the establishment of great democratic republics. Perhaps we think of man's conquest of the earth, the air and the water, the practical annihilation of time and space. We may today form a thought and in an instant give that thought concrete expression at the very ends of the earth. Or we may think of the conquests of disease, of smallpox, of yellow fever, of diphtheria, but even these great achievements seem less important than the changes which have occurred in the very basis and structure of our civilization, and in referring to the basis and structure of our civilization, I am not referring to the views of those who think modern culture is founded on plumbing and gas heat.

"One hundred and fifty years ago the sources of power were water and labor of man and beast. The mastery of steam resulted in the development and concentration of power in greater quantities than had ever before been conceived. The mastery of electricity permitted the transmission of enormous energy. The development of the internal combustion engine which made possible the automobile has to our knowledge in very recent years, made a great difference in modern life. Mass production was inevitable under these circumstances, but not only has machinery displaced handicraft, but chemistry is replacing natural products. The Germans have discovered how to make gasoline from coal, and in the case of any future war, Germany will not be dependent on other countries for this. Other chemists have taught us how to make grain alcohol from gasoline.

"When this town started, four-fifths of the population of the entire country were engaged in agriculture. Today less than one-fourth is so engaged. The concentration of power and railroads, the very importance of machinery and transportation, drew population from the towns and developed the great and all-devouring cities and intensified the conflict between dwellers in the cities and towns, which offers opportunities for demi-gods of both.

"The change, as I have mentioned, has induced changes not only in our laws but in our conception of laws and has created moral problems as yet unsolved. Colebrook has witnessed these changes but has been affected by them less than most towns, but no one can go into the basement of the church and see the historical exhibit displayed there, without noticing the difference between life in those days and today. Then people living in town raised their own grain which was ground in town mills, and made their own bread; they wove their own flax into cloth and now this is done by machinery.

"When we look at the structure of the old houses and barns that were made from hand-hewn timbers (and I am told that in this town there are only three men who can square a timber) the change is great, yet there are some things that apparently remain the same—the land, and the spirit of the inhabitants.

"In looking over the old records I came across a curious memorial by Rockwell presented to the town just one year after its incorporation which set forth that the numbers of the inhabitants were small, the land was rough and stubborn and hard to subdue, they were encountering other difficulties whereby they were unable to pay taxes, and the desire to escape taxes existed then as it does today.

"I hope in some ways Colebrook is coming back to its old prosperity. The three most expensive things in modern life—space, fresh air and quiet—are here in abundant measure, and these and other charms are drawing back people from the cities to this town, at least in the summertime, and perhaps Colebrook is solving the conflict between the town dweller and the city dweller. As you look about, you see the town dweller in such towns as Colebrook and the city dweller lying down together like the lion and the calf of the prophecy of Isaiah, and each side may identify themselves with either faction they choose.

"It is not my function to make a speech, but to introduce those who can do it better.

"I have the pleasure of introducing the first speaker, Rev. John Calvin Goddard, a resident of Salisbury, a neighbor and an old friend who knows probably as much of the history of Colebrook as anybody else and who will deliver a very interesting address."

MR. GODDARD: "Mr. Chairman, neighbors of Colebrook and friends who are here to celebrate her anniversary.

"I am happy and proud to be invited for now the second time to hold a torch and fire a gun. I appreciate the honor that is cast upon me in this respect. There is a reason why the towns of Salisbury and Colebrook should be regarded as next of kin. I learned only last night that you celebrate the coming in of the Fourth of July by ringing the church bell, which is a custom I found established in Salisbury.

"Now we have listened to the eulogy of Webster on Massachusetts, 'There she stands,' yet in the early days she did not always stand; she stepped over the line, she invaded our territory, and the towns of Colebrook, Salisbury, Norfolk and others have helped her keep her place.

"Also, it is true that we are indebted to Mr. Thomas Smith, a Tory and an Englishman, who founded a forge at each place and from these forges the Continental Army received its ammunition during the Revolutionary struggle.

"The pastor of Salisbury, Jonathan Lee, was the father of your second pastor, Chauncey Lee, who continued here twenty-eight years, a most successful ministry. Also, both towns enjoyed a most unholy row over the moving of the meeting house (and it was illustrated here when you saw that yoke of oxen go by drawing the miniature church) in which the fathers, like St. Paul, 'used great plainness of speech,' including some that is not found in Webster's Dictionary (for coals and brooks make hot water, and they had plenty). Both finally settled it by referees. Colebrook tried removal of their ark by oxen, as did King David, but, having 125 yoke to

manage they could not make them gee! Next, both towns had an extraordinary revival of religion in the same year, 1815, whereby 105 joined this church and 188 the one in Salisbury. May all our troubles have a like happy ending!

"In the year 1796, according to Barber, some laborers of this town, digging to the depth of nine feet, found three tusks and two thigh bones, the latter about four feet in length and four inches in thickness, the remains of a prehistoric elephant. Your community may know what to do with an elephant on its hands, but the speaker has felt great concern over the one you have placed in his. I might discourse on the great men that stand out in your shadowy past.

"Your first minister was the son of Jonathan Edwards, the uncle of Aaron Burr, and went from here to be president of Union College. Rev. Chauncey Lee wrote a book on mathematics. One of your ministers, Mr. Dean, was also a scholar, the best versed in Hebrew of any man I ever met in the ministry, and was consulted by the American committee on the revision of the Old Testament. In lighter vein I might allude to his successor, Rev. Mr. Hedges, because the allusion illustrates the wit of a Colebrook lady, and I told it at a banquet of the Society of the Revolution in New York, at the expense of the famous after-dinner speaker, his kinsman, Hon. Job Hedges. The minister was a very shy man, rarely came out of his study, and on occasion of a church supper, where the attendance threatened to be small, one asked: 'What can we do in order to get more in?' The reply was: 'You might go out into the highways and compel Hedges to come in.'

"I might please you by adverting to other famous men and women of your history—to Capt. Arah Phelps who ran the famous Phelps tavern, one of whose descendants I saw while a collegian win the Southworth cup, equivalent to the rowing championship of Yale (this was in 1879); to Senator ^{Julius} Rockwell of Massachusetts and speaker of its house; to Abiram Chamberlain, governor of Connecticut; to Capt. Lorin DeWolf of the 21st Connecticut Volunteers, whose daughter, Miss Rocelia, honors us with her presence on this platform and is not sensitive as to her age, being ninety-one summers. All these and more, concerning the college men and scholars of Colebrook and equally distinguished captains of industry who adorn your annals and still adorn them. But this inviting function belongs to some son of the soil, and your speaker prefers to have you look at Colebrook on a larger scale, as an illustration of a theme more appropriate to this

exalted occasion and which I venture to define as 'The Dignity of a Small Town.'

"The United States of Connecticut comprise 168 sovereign units, each of them acting on the motto of South Carolina, 'Nemo me Lacessit impune.' Beware of treading on my corns! Each of them is an Andorra, having an individuality of its own, and Colebrook is a good exemplification of the whole. They are small, ranging from the 3,400 acres of New London to the 40,000 of New Milford, say from five square miles to sixty-three, and averaging twenty-nine. President Dwight argued that they were too small, citing the thirty-six square miles average of the west, but the limits were set mainly for the convenience of reaching town meeting, which enshrines the political genius of each sovereign municipality. Let no man despise a thing for its size. Palestine was about half the size and shape of Vermont; Greece was only half the area of New York, but has exercised an intellectual domination exceeding that of empires that spanned a continent.

"Now, in order to give emphasis to the point I wish to make, let me at the start allow all possible concession to the affliction and setbacks of the small town. We of these places are accustomed to being called 'hayseed' and our town 'way-back.'

"Ours is a country of altitudes, of farms on top of hills, and of mortgages on top of farms; a county of shifting populations, of Jebusites from Germany, Hivites from Sweden, Hittites from Italy and hit-him-agin-ites from Ireland. Their men make the bulk of our day laborers; their girls board in our best families. There is a constant drain of young men to the cities and, per contra, an overplus of girls, part of whom, like Gehazi, keep up an eager lookout for something about the size of a man's hand. There are other changes. The meeting house is no longer the social center of the town. The parson is not what his name once implied, 'the person' of the village; he is merely an item in the census. They have even lowered his pulpit from a point nearer heaven to a point nearer the congregation. The old people are fond of telling him, 'Oh, but you ought to have seen the wagons that once drove up to the church door in the days of Dr. Certain Trumpet!' Just as they say down south on a bright night, 'Yes, but you ought to have seen that moon before the war!'

"Of the 168 towns in Connecticut, sixty-six showed a loss at the last census and ninety-five are below their former maximum. For example, Colebrook dropped from 557 to 492, while if McDuff should rise to inquire again today, 'Stands Scotland where it did?' the painful reply from Windham

County would be, 'No. Scotland has slipped from 476 to 391.' Some of these towns remind us of what Artemus Ward said of his friend, that he 'had been dead two years and liked it.'

"But rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay. This is only one side of the shield. The other side is that not one of these small towns is in any danger of going out of business. Not Andover at 389, where they are obliged to salt down woodchucks for winter beef. Not Union at 257, up in the woods where the pastor once said he could not keep chickens because the foxes got them all. It is possible that some of them may decline even further and still not go out of business.

"There are fifteen towns in Massachusetts smaller than our smallest. The last two are New Ashford and Mount Washington, at eighty-five and fifty-eight, respectively, which vie with each other in making the first presidential election returns, getting up before the sun and casting all ballots in ten minutes. Last year New Ashford beat its rival to the Associated Press by using the radio instead of the telephone!

"Now, first, the political and individual importance of each one of these little republics keeps it alive. Ninety-five of our 168 towns elect a majority of our General Assembly. Yet they contain but eleven per cent of our population. Mark Twain once remarked that he would like to cast his whole voting strength for Jerome, giving him one for Mark and two for Twain. But the voting strength of the average small town citizen, compared with the rest of the state, is more than three, without resort to repeating or humor. Colebrook elects the same number of representatives with 126 votes that New Haven does with 19,638. That is to say, there is 154 times more fun voting in Colebrook than in the City of Elms. This may be all wrong; may even lead to corrupt practices in Connecticut, for small towns are easier to carry than city wards; (I do not stop to argue its equity) but one thing it surely does, it makes the small town jealous of its prerogative, draws its citizenship together, gives it a sense of dignity and importance, that keeps it alive.

"Furthermore, as population shrinks, a man's individual importance expands, and to live where you are not lost in the census, but are constantly 'in the running,' is no mean consideration. According to Ceasar, it is grander to be the first man in the Iberian village than the second man in Rome. Which was the belief, also, of that enthusiastic son who wrote his father the moving appeal, 'Come out west, Father, and run for office. The most ornery kind of men get elected out here!' There is something in that argument.

"At the juncture of three states, near Salisbury, lies a little area called Boston Corners, about the size of a school district. It used to be a No Man's Land, 'out of the Union,' unclaimed by either New York, Massachusetts or Connecticut, a fact telling its own story of the difficulty of making lines meet by the original surveys. There in Boston Corners, chosen because of its having no state jurisdiction, was fought in the fifties that famous 'mill' for the championship of America between Mr. Yankee Sullivan and the Hon. John Morrissey. It is an old jest that the Hon. John, who won the match on a foul, and afterwards went to Congress, began his Parliamentary career right there by practicing on the eyes and nose. In this historic spot, 'Where the battle was fought,' lived a dozen farmers, and I have heard one of them describe how they carried on a government of their own around a 'school-marm's' desk, parcelling out the taxes for the year according to the luck of the crop. They enjoyed their very feeling of paucity; and so does every 'right little, tight little' municipality in Connecticut.

"Secondly, the small town has a future because of its agricultural and rustic worth. I am aware that much has been written and more believed about the 'abandoned farms' of Connecticut: but when you come to look for them, you will find they are like Goldsmith's Deserted Village, not on the map. Somebody has been romancing at our expense, and our reply should be like that of the Vigilance Committee in Texas, who, having hanged a suspect for horse stealing and, discovering immediately that he was the wrong man, concluded that etiquette required an apology to his widow; to whom resorting, the Captain explained the mistake, closing with the words, 'Madam, the joke is on us!' Now it is true, as Professor Phelps of Storrs has pointed out, that many Connecticut areas were never designed to support a progressive system of agriculture, and their return to forest is but the natural reversion. Decline in New England is limited to such areas.

"But Connecticut has 23,000 farms. A farm population of 107,000. These farmers own eighty-six per cent of the farms, which is twenty-five per cent above the average of the United States. They are ably backed by Storrs Agricultural College. And by most competent Experiment Stations. And by 20,000 active members of the Grange. The crop value is \$90,000,000 annually and has doubled in the last fifteen years. The crop value per acre is higher than in any other State in the union.

"Specifically, the dairy, sheep, vegetable and fruit industries are growing by leaps and bounds. I heard J. H. Hale,

the peach expert, say, 'There is no better climate for peaches anywhere in the world.'

"Agriculture, however, is not the whole story of rural worth. Of Connecticut's 3,000,000 acres, one-half is in forest; it tells a picturesque story of many a small town. Suppose the deer do increase, as is the case; suppose that in North Stonington, 'Turkey-Town,' they demand a bounty for killing of eagles, because they ravage the turkey industry; suppose that Kent has a 'Rattlesnake Club' which meets once a year and makes a stint of killing four rattlers; is the country going to the dogs because it is going to the snakes?

"The State Park and Forest Commission is doing a noble work in preserving our forests, beautifying our landscapes, and advertising our natural resources. Historical and patriotic societies are marking historic spots. The Highway Commission is doing its full share in making all these accessible.

"There are forty state parks and fifteen state forests. We have 7,000 miles of brooks, that 'chatter, chatter, as they flow, and bicker down the valley.' We have more than 1,000 lakes that mirror back the skies.

"And in all this, the small towns have a larger share. There are more ways of estimating a town than by its population or grand list!

"Thirdly the small town has its imperishable vitality because of its historical importance.

"Warren is the fourth from the foot in population, but has memories of three college presidents born in her. Bethlehem never had 1,200 population, but produced the foremost theologian of his day, Dr. Bellamy, to whom the University of Edinboro sent a degree across the Atlantic. Litchfield County has twenty-six towns, nineteen of which are below their former high-water mark, but what a history it has to fall back upon! No other 900 square miles in America can equal it, according to Henry Clay Trumbull. The first missionary society in the nation, the first law school, the first temperance movement, the first divinity school, Henry Ward Beecher, Harriet Beecher Stowe, John Brown, Horace Bushnell, John Pierpont, all came out of these little villages; and memories such as these act on failing communities like beef, iron and wine.

"And I mention these things, not because of historical sentiment chiefly, but because they are among the most positive assets which a town possesses. They beget a filial spirit which is not lost even in the busiest career, or in the farthest removal from home. Men's affections go back to their boy-

hood town with a tenderness which they may not feel for anything else. 'I remember, I remember the house where I was born.' The banker stops on change, the merchant pauses in the thick of trade, to indulge that 'Old Homestead' longing, such as was felt by another man of affairs, when he voiced it in the reminiscent sigh. 'O that one would give me to drink of the water of the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate!'

"Such filial feeling is worth more than dollars and cents to any community, and repeatedly expresses itself in benefactions beyond the dreams of Subscription Committees. Branford discovered it accidentally when it was trying to raise a modest library among its friends and wrote to, among others, a long-departed son of the soil whom few of them had ever seen. He responded by assuming the whole expense of that magnificent architectural plant, the Blackstone Library. Mr. Blackstone had carried all these years a cherished, though unsuspected, loyalty for his native town. Instance after instance could be given of men and women who have thus remembered their town through its church, library, cemetery or school, and love to do it.

"Norfolk has enjoyed an amount of public spirit, unparalleled in the State; a spirit, which has been contagious, so that it would be easy to show how a million dollars had been expended for public interests in this corner of the State through the stimulus of Norfolk's example. The Norfolk Library, the Eldridge Gymnasium, the University Club, the Boy's Oratorical Contest, the Litchfield County Choral Union, the wealth of music, enjoyed by the whole vicinage, all sprang out of an original love for the town of Norfolk, which eventually overflowed its borders. Yet when it began in a simple way, Norfolk was a quiet little town of about a regiment and a half, that had been declining in population for decades and was nearly 300 short of the census of 1860. Town loyalty and public spirit, in other words, do not depend upon the size of the town nor the thrift of the town. Indeed, a small town is more sure of enjoying it than a larger one. For a man finds it hard to put his arms around a city, but easy to make a darling of his village.

"To sum up the case, every small town in Connecticut has a dignity of its own, and an assured future:

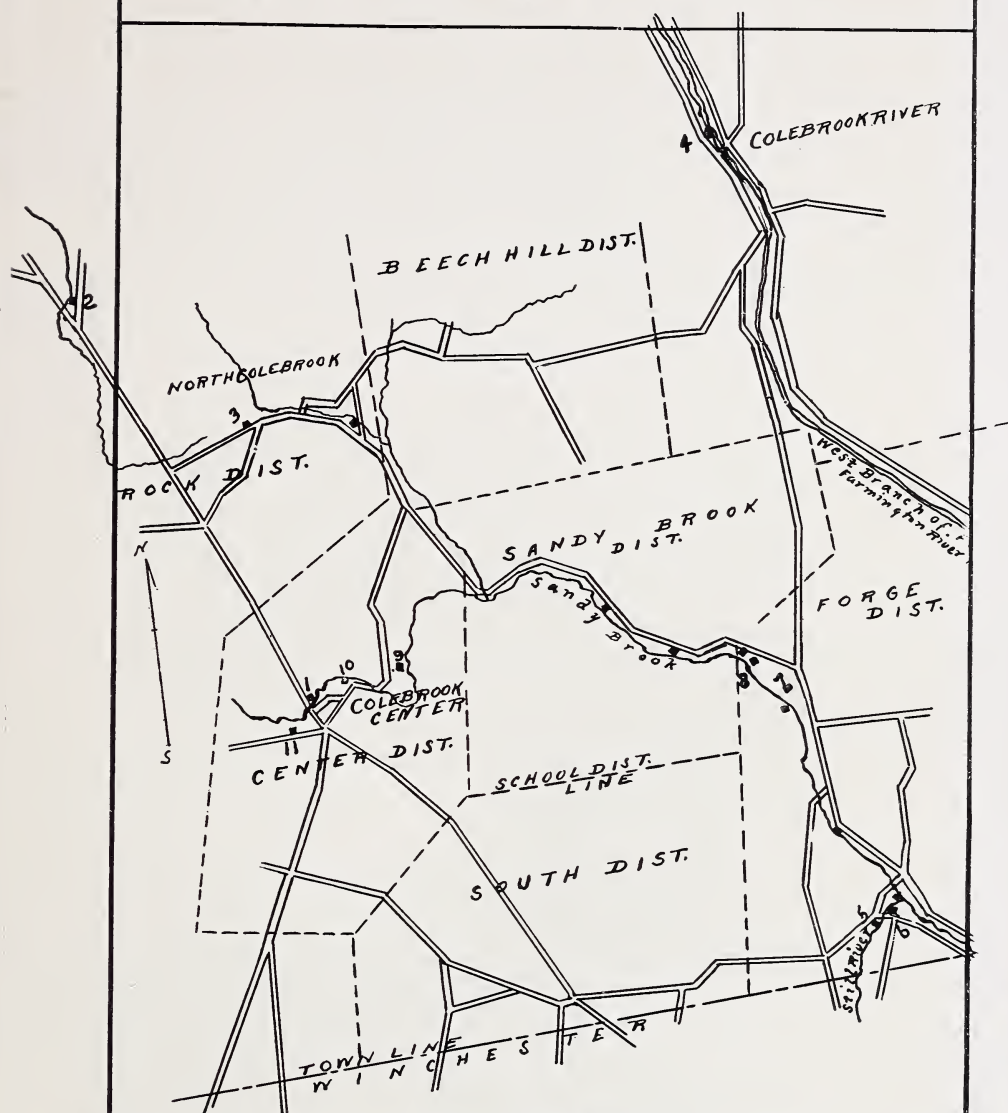
"First, because of its political importance;

"Second, because of its rural worth;

"Third, because of its historical interests.

"And here I leave the forecast of the Little Town with the signals set for 'Westerly winds, probably fair.' Each of them is a shut casket of possibilities, an unfinished volume,

SOME PIONEERING POWER-USING MILL-SITES IN COLEBROOK



LEGEND

- 1 The Rockwell Forge 1790. Moved to Windsted in 1802. Tannery later on same site.
- 2 Wool Carding Plant. Later in 1879 The Phelps Cheese Factory.
- 3 The Phelps Saw Mill and Single Mill.
- 4 Sawyer Cotton Mills 1859
- 5 Smith Forge 1770. Operated by State of Conn. during Revolution.
- 6 Union Chair Co. Successors to The Hitchcock Chair Firm.
- 7 Saw Mill. Later makers of Coffee-mill boards and Cheese Boxes
- 8 Saw Mill. D. C. Y. Moore made Lawn Mower Hand Dies.
- 9 Saw Mill
- 10 Rockwell Forge No 2
- 11 Kiln where steel was made from Iron by Martin Rockwell

whose best chapters may yet be written. It was a little town of Bridges Creek that begat the Father of his Country; it was little Hodgenville in Kentucky that produced the Great Emancipator; while devout hearts are still looking backward to that little town of Bethlehem, of which the prophet said: 'But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me, that is to be Ruler in Israel.'

"And so I take leave of thee, gallant Little Town, with a strong faith, with a strong hope, with a strong pressure of the hand.

"Blessings on thee, Little Brother!

"Benedicite!

"Banzai!"

"America the Beautiful."

MODERATOR: "I have the pleasure of introducing a gentleman who needs little introduction to this audience, Dr. William Mather Lewis, President of Lafayette College. He is down on the program to speak on 'Colebrook Today.' He told me he wanted me to announce he was going to speak on the 'Influence of Colebrook.' I don't think the title makes much difference."

MR. LEWIS: "Mr. Moderator, honored guests, citizens and friends of Colebrook.

"Milestones are always of interest to the traveler and the interest increases as the distance lengthens. Hence the peculiar significance of this day when we gather to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Colebrook's corporate existence. The occasion calls for an expression by someone vastly more in a position to speak intelligently and authoritatively about the past and the present of this community, about the early days of Connecticut, than am I. But, being here, I must justify my presence, as doubtless you are trying to do at this very moment. I, therefore, submit the fact that my earliest ancestor in America, Nathaniel Farrand, settled in Milford, Connecticut, in 1645 and that today he rests in the old burying ground there.

"Thus I stand in the position of the prodigal returning from an unsatisfactory experience with the husks of Illinois, the District of Columbia and Pennsylvania, and if my reception is not what the prodigal has a right to expect the fault is not mine.

"What I wish to do is but to touch on a few of the outstanding features in this interesting record in order that I may later point to two important lessons gathered therefrom. In such a fragmentary statement it is impossible to do credit

to individuals or to families. Those names which are mentioned are mentioned incidentally. Those names which are omitted are omitted with regret and with the hope that as a result of this anniversary someone really capable will be inspired to set down in complete form the narrative of this century and a half in Colebrook.

"The Connecticut which my ancestor knew was a colony of God-fearing, courageous pioneers, whose influence is felt even unto this day. Connecticut in proportion to her population furnished more men for the French and Indian wars than did any other colony. Connecticut unreservedly threw her manpower and her material resources into the war for Independence. This community is closely linked to that struggle in many ways. The Historian tells us that along the North Country road which stretched "from Samuel Humphrey's mansion in Simsbury to Col. David Whitney's in Canaan" there were marched after the defeat of General Burgoyne at Saratoga in October, 1777, a band of Hessian prisoners on the way to deportation—and that 123 of these spent the night of October 24th at Rockwell's in Colebrook.

"If we were to continue to refer to Colebrook's part in our wars, which after all is not the best method of marking the high points in the life of a village or a union, we might draw a picture of the women of Colebrook in this very meeting house during the war sewing the uniforms, the cut material for which was sent out from the government depot in this district.

"Touching upon but a few incidents in the life story of Colebrook it is well to recall the year 1729 for it was in that year that seven towns were patented to Hartford and Windsor by the colony of Connecticut—one of the seven being Colebrook. This entire vicinity was then covered with heavy timber. It was surveyed and laid out in 1757 by a group of men whose names have a familiar sound in Colebrook today—Allen and Phelps, Rockwell, Wolcott and Filley.

"Benjamin Horton, the first inhabitant, settled here in 1765. In 1776, Richard Smith moved in from Salisbury and built the old forge. Smith was a tory and at the beginning of the Revolution he sailed for England, whereupon the forge was taken over by a group of citizens and used for making cannon.

"In 1775, ten years after the first settlement, there were 207 people residing in Colebrook and at the end of the war there were 272.

"It is well to emphasize the fact that we are not holding this celebration upon the exact date when Colebrook was in-

corporated, for such incorporation did not take place until October, 1779. The first town meeting was held in December in a home which I believe was the third or fourth to be built here and which was erected in 1767, the Samuel Rockwell house. Could its walls speak they would relate a fascinating story of the various secular and religious meetings held there in those early days.

"Particularly interesting and important is the record of the Colebrook Ecclesiastical Society, organized in 1784, because the life of Colebrook has always centered about the meeting house and today in its simple beauty it radiates an influence impossible to measure.

"The narrative of attempts to locate and to build the first meeting house suggest that the church militant was very much in evidence in the 18th century and proves the truth of the Scriptural contention, that a house divided against itself cannot stand. Three different sites were chosen and abandoned at various times before construction proceeded very far. The factions were those living on the north side and on the south side of Colebrook. Once the foundations were laid and the frames made ready north of the Brook but the opposition from the south was so determined that work stopped. Then lots were cast and the south side won. Work was pushed and harmony seemed to prevail. But in 1793 it was voted that the meeting house be moved back to the north side. This move was attempted with the aid of 150 yoke of oxen but no provision was made for easing the structure down the hill to the brook. Thus the plan failed and from that day to this the meeting house has been on the south side.

"We smile in a superior way at the conflict of a past century, feeling perhaps that such things would be impossible in a church organization today, but compared with some of the antics now being performed by theologians in connection with the sham battle of Princeton, it was all a logical and orderly ecclesiastical proceeding.

"It was about the time of the completion of the meeting house in 1795 that there came to the pulpit Dr. Jonathan Edwards, 2nd, the able son of a great father. The community to which he ministered numbered 1,000 inhabitants.

"In 1842 the Society voted to erect a new church on the present site and the basement of this building was used in January, 1843. And these dates bring to mind the story of how the inaugural address of President Harrison was read in the old store to an interested crowd in 1841, having reached Colebrook just sixty days after it was delivered in Washington. Truly the world has moved forward in a mechanical way

since that day. Witness the fact that last March the inaugural address of President Hoover was heard in Colebrook at the same instant it was delivered at the Capitol.

"Thus one might proceed indefinitely with narratives of the Colebrook of yesterday—the net result being a better conception of the youth of a community which is not old today but which has played its part in every epoch of our national development; a part no less important today than in the infancy of the Republic. I indicated in the beginning that two lessons might be impressed upon this occasion. An anniversary such as this must be a time when we take stock—when we compute the value of that person or institution which we honor.

"And the first of these lessons is that of a great heritage of blood and of tradition. Colebrook was founded, and is today maintained by those to whom we truly refer as strong New England stock. Now it will be a sad day for America when that sturdy New England stock, the fine old Virginia stock and the solid Pennsylvania stock die out or are crossed out of existence. We have made a fetish of the melting pot in America. The political orator finds it grist for his mill. The vapid sentimentalist becomes lacramose over it. It is, indeed, fine that in America every man, regardless of color or creed, be given his chance. But with all the clamor that is raised for the melting pot, with all the good that has come from the infiltration of various strains of blood, it is refreshing occasionally to hear a still small voice raised in behalf of those pure strains upon which America is built. It is still well for us to remember that brain power is not the only thing to be desired in our civilization—that birth and breeding, and national ideals still count for something. The typical New Englander thinks when meditating on his nation what he can do to improve and strengthen it. The immigrant quite naturally comes to this country for what he can get out of it.

"And this is said without disparagement and with full recognition of the contributions which immigrants have made to our artistic and scientific advancement. It is simply an expression of gratitude for that quiet, but effective and continuing element in our population which contributes the greatest stability to our national life.

"Coming out of American cities where one's ears are assailed by a babel of tongues it is refreshing here to talk with people who use the English language with nicety and who carry into every vocation the simple dignity which has al-

ways glorified even the simplest achievements of New England. Is it not worth while for us to preserve here and there in communities like this the real American tradition?

"The second lesson is that of the place of the small community in the life of America. Summer residents in Colebrook and in innumerable other New England communities are not drawn there by a desire to rusticate, but by an intangible influence which charges the spiritual batteries and sends them back to their tasks inspired and refreshed. Here we find a desire to really live quietly and abundantly and happily as we never find it in the highly strung and artificial life of the city. Here we find those who still have a hold on the real values—who somehow have learned that making a life is greater than making a living.

"I visited in England this summer in the north country the early homes of William Bradford and of William Brewster. These men who exerted such profound influence upon the early life of our country did not come from cities. They were the products of hamlets—where nature and quiet gave them great conceptions of civil and religious liberty. And from Bethlehem in Judea to the villages of Connecticut the record runs the same. The big cities gain their best recruits from the great hamlets. And when America becomes, as she bids fair to become, a nation of great cities, when the countryside is divested of manpower to carry on those centers where wealth accumulates and men decay, much of our glory and our strength will have departed. The problem is capable of solution. If but a small proportion of the attention which has been given to the problem of the American city is given to the problem of the small community the answer will be found. You can't turn the tide by propaganda or by highly moral generalities; you have to make the small community as pleasant a place to live as is the city. If this cannot be done our boasted American ingenuity is a farce. We do well to be serious about this matter ere it is too late. America needs its Colebrooks.

"And so upon this Sesqui-Centennial occasion those of us whose families have lived here for generations, and those of us who have had but recent touch with the beauty and the inspiration of Colebrook, join in joyous recognition of those elements which have made and shall continue to make this community a real influence in the life of the State and of the nation; its center this lovely old meeting house; its people a solid, dependable, truly American stock; its smallness explaining its greatness. And, above all, the peaceful and healing beauty of its environment.

"Truly—Beyond these lovely valleys rise
The purple hills of Paradise."

MODERATOR: "I take great pleasure in introducing one of the best known, most respected and most devoted residents of Colebrook, Miss Katharine Carrington."

MISS CARRINGTON: "At the close of the eighteenth century, the people of Colebrook decided they wanted a doctor. We who have lived here now know better. We know Colebrook is so healthy we don't need any doctor, but they thought otherwise, so they called, in 1804, Dr. Jesse Carrington of Goshen, who built the house in which I have spent all my days. My life here covers more than one-half of the period we celebrate, and I think the living conditions of my childhood were more like the year 1779 than 1929. We did not live in the age of paper bags and tin cans. There was a barrel of pork in the cellar and all kinds of vegetables. Our turkey at Thanksgiving did not come from Texas. It was raised on the farm, and the chicken pie was not made of cold storage western.

"I think when I was young I heard so much complaint about the weather here that I honestly thought New England had the worst climate in the world. Since then I have been east as far as Greece and west as far as the Pacific.

"Colebrook is a good place in which to live; it is a good place to spend your life in. Those who originated here and have gone away made a mistake. Those who stayed here and have spent their lives here are very much to be congratulated."

MODERATOR: "I take great pleasure in introducing Hon. James P. Glynn of Winchester, representative in Congress."

MR. GLYNN: "Mr. Chairman, honored guests, ladies and gentlemen.

"It certainly is a pleasure to be here today, and we are attracted perhaps more by the older costumes than those of the modern day. When we see those colonial costumes, it reminds us that in 1779 when this town was incorporated, we were then in the throes of a battle for freedom. Something had happened three years before, a document had been given to the world said to be the greatest thing since the coming of Christ, the Declaration of Independence, and the whole tone of that great instrument was "Let us be free."

"Colebrook like other towns throughout New England and throughout the colonies had that burning thought in mind more than any other—"Let us be free"—and on the wings of that sublime phrase attracted by the liberty loving people of all the world, genius left its ancient homestead and toiled its painful way to become a pioneer in this new land,

and enterprise and energy dedicated itself to the carving out of villages and of cities and men and women felt in their hearts the light of hope because Colebrook was born during the time of the founding of a nation.

"In all the years which have intervened, Colebrook has done its full part. It has produced good men and women and leaders, men and women with hearts as true as steel.

"We want the boys and girls of today to feel that as they go out from the schools and the colleges of this land, they may have the opportunity to become one of those countless miracles of achievement who have made and will continue to make America what it is."

MODERATOR: "Winsted was in large part settled by people who went down from Colebrook, and the old residents of Colebrook have always had a sort of a maternal feeling for an overgrown daughter, and I am going to ask Mr. Dudley L. Vaill of Winsted to speak on behalf of Winsted."

MR. VAILL: "Mr. Moderator, ladies and gentlemen.

"It is a great pleasure as well as a privilege to bring you the felicitations of Winsted and the town of Winchester, but I am not altogether sure about this relationship you speak of. I have a stubbornly held opinion that the ancestor should be the older, and I must remind you that our town was incorporated in 1771.

"Colebrook, it seems, started out to be a metropolis, as your Moderator has said, with ambitions in the manufacture of iron. It was quite on a par with Pittsburgh at one time, I suppose. The years have brought changes, and one would not think of placing Colebrook as a rival of Pittsburgh with the manufacture of steel and iron, but Colebrook has become an exceedingly eligible place for human habitation. There is proof of that in the number of people who come every year within your borders who unfortunately cannot live here all the time, so they live here as much of the time as possible.

"We think a good deal of Colebrook at Winsted and always have, and if there have ever been any quarrels or dissensions, I am sure I have never heard of them; and Colebrook, I believe, must think well of Winsted.

"I was interested to hear Dr. Goddard mention the discovery of prehistoric remains in this town, because it is interesting to know that there was something even earlier than Rockwells, Phelps and Carringtons. Of course, you have no mastodons, but it might be suggested that Colebrook, still as a mastodon, figures in the industrial world, professionally and educationally.

"The best wish I can bring for Colebrook's next century and one-half is that it may continue to go on along the lines of its past history, preserving those characteristics which have made it the place it is, and dwelling always as it has, in cordial harmony with its neighbors, especially those on the southern border."

MODERATOR: "I am going to introduce to you Mr. G. F. Hurd, who is one of those people pulled out of the city by the charms of Colebrook."

MR. HURD: "Mr. Moderator, residents and guests of Colebrook—and I am very proud to add—friends and neighbors.

"I want to touch on the subject which is closest to my heart, and I want to thank this committee and the residents of this town and those who are in authority for the privilege of addressing you.

"We have seen today in this celebration a strong reflection of the spirit of the founders of this community, a spirit which is carried on and today has found expression, and if the founders can look down upon us, I think they will agree, has done them full justice.

"In the basement of this church we have seen the handicraft of the old days.

"I am thinking of another set of monuments which exist in our countryside and which are revealed only to those who frequently trespass. I am thinking of the miles of moss-grown stonewalls which once separated pasture from pasture. I am thinking of the dozens of old foundations which would be the wonder of the stone cutter of today, each one of which was the center of a family and each family was a contributor to that which we are here to commemorate and celebrate today. There they are lost, these old homesteads frequently, except as they are revealed.

"In order that something of the story of those old homesteads may be preserved and with the consent of all of this committee and those in charge of the school, on behalf of myself and some friends, I want to offer this coming year two sets of prizes, first, second and third, one set to be awarded to the children of the schools for the first, second and third best accounts of the founding and subsequent history of a homestead which is now identified only by its foundation.

"The second set is to be awarded to the grown-ups for the same material, emphasis to be laid on the labor expended in gathering the material rather than by the expression of the lettering of the material.

"We are doing this in the hope that it may contribute in a very small part something to the perpetuation of the spirit of this community which, during the last few years, has contributed so much to the pleasure of those of us who have been permitted to live here during part of the year."

MODERATOR: "Mr. Philip Curtis, one of our nearest neighbors."

MR. CURTIS: "Ladies and gentlemen.

"Having been asked here somewhat informally and expecting to come somewhat informally, I was very much surprised when I saw this most impressive instrument, but I was somewhat reassured when I found that the loud speaker caused the voices to reverberate with a strong Yankee tang, at least I hoped it was the loud speaker.

"As the question of the relationship between Winsted and Colebrook has been brought up, I would like to add my bit of testimony.

"About a year ago I had the pleasure of speaking at a banquet at which one of the speakers, evidently wishing to pay us the best compliment, said: 'Winsted is very fortunate in its suburbs.' I thought for a while that I might use that line myself this afternoon, but, knowing how I felt on that occasion, I will change it a bit and say, 'Norfolk is very fortunate in its neighbors.'

"I am here to extend the congratulations of the town of Norfolk, but I also have a very strong personal reason for wishing to be here. Some of you are connected with Colebrook by residence, some by inheritance and some by adoption, but I am connected with Colebrook by marriage. My uncle married a young lady from Colebrook, a daughter of Horace Phelps, and I spent many very pleasant weeks there in the early part of my life. The Phelps place passed out of the family and I was somewhat astonished to find that another family by the name of Phelps had bought it. Apparently there is something in the soil where only Phelpses could survive. I lost touch with the place, but for years I have been longing for a chance to see the entire population of Colebrook face to face and find out if there were anyone in the town besides Carringtons and Phelpses.

"But I must get on to my official task which is to congratulate the town of Colebrook on having reached the age of 150 years. I must be very frank and say I do not see how you could have stopped it. If you will just sit tight and not get nervous or excited, the first thing you know you will be

160. The towns of Colebrook and Norfolk have not only a similar history, but they have a similar destiny.

"A few weeks ago a very up-and-coming young man came to call on me and tried to sell me a set of books, and wishing to give the usual small talk, he said how much he admired the town and he asked the population. I said about twelve or fifteen hundred. He said: 'Is the population increasing?' I said: 'No, thank Heaven. Do you realize that if the population of Norfolk should double, the town would be ruined in a financial way and every other possible way.'"

"What we have to sell in Norfolk is peace and quiet. A great many people in this world are beginning to realize that peace and quiet are becoming very scarce commodities.

"We have heard this afternoon of various inventions and how the world has been changed. The world hasn't changed. During the lifetime of Henry D. Thoreau the Atlantic cable was laid. He said: 'The Atlantic cable is laid, and now that it is laid, what are we going to say over it?' Each new invention seems for a minute to change our lives but it doesn't essentially change the things we want. It was a wonderful thing that the airship could sail around the world, but from all accounts, the passengers spent their time looking out of the window and waiting for dinner, which we have done for some time.

"I hope the residents of Colebrook feel as we do, that we have a very valuable commodity in the quiet and beauty of our old New England town which we must preserve because it is the greatest financial asset any town is likely to have.

"We have learned of the old tables and chairs—think what they would bring today, and if any of you ever think of selling your land, no doubt you can, in a few short years, get a price that would simply astound you, but even though the price of the tables and chairs would be great, think what the value would be to the family in which they came down.

"So when I speak of the value of the beauty and peace and quiet of such towns as Norfolk and Colebrook, I hope primarily to reach those who belong to the old Yankee stock of Norfolk and Colebrook."

MODERATOR: "May I introduce Mr. J. G. Stoddard, who spent his boyhood here and who has always maintained associations with the town."

MR. STODDARD: "Mr. Chairman and friends.

"I notice on the program they have me down as from Colebrook, but my home is in Greenfield, Mass.

"I was not aware that I was to make any remarks here today until I arrived in town. It is a fact that I came to Colebrook when I was nine years old, sixty-eight years ago. I came here and lived with Mrs. Anna Hurlbut up on the farm that is now occupied by Mr. Willis.

"During the time I lived here I knew a great many of the older residents of the town whom I remember very clearly. One was Rev. Archibald Dean who was pastor of this church. Then there was a Deacon Grant, William Lawrence, Deacon Barbour who lived down by the schoolhouse, William Smith, Mr. Edward Carrington, Martin Phelps, and I could name over several others.

"Then for the younger generation, with whom I was more closely acquainted, there was Samuel Carver, Julius Whiting, Hiram Smith, Edward Stocking, Mr. Crane (who is on the grounds here today) and last, but not least, Julius Huggy, one of my best and warmest friends. I looked upon him as a brother and he and his family have been the magnet which has drawn me back to Colebrook most every year since I left.

"Today I have been reminded very forcibly of an event which happened a good many years ago. It was on the night before the Fourth of July. The old liberty pole had fallen down and there was to be a new pole put up. The pole was on the ground; the hole was dug, and a week before this celebration, quite a number of us young Americans, who wanted to make a little noise to celebrate, got together and whittled out plugs to drive in the mouth of the cannon so that when it was fired it would make more noise. The time came for us to fire the cannon which was 12 o'clock. We buried the cannon with a pile of gravel. When it was fired off, the stones fell on the roofs of every house in the center, and it was very amusing to see the people all run to the windows to see what had happened. I can see now in my mind's eye, Mrs. Corbin sticking her head out of the window wonderingly.

"Immediately after the first cannon went off I was assigned to ring the church bell. I went into the church in perhaps a stealthy way. I unfastened the window, knowing I could not get in otherwise. I commenced to pull the bell rope when the first cannon went off, but the bell did not respond and the boys outside wanted to know why I didn't ring the bell. I told them I was trying to do so. Upon investigation I found that the tongue of the bell had been taken out. Some of the good people did not want to be disturbed by the ringing of the bell, so we went up into the belfry and pounded the bell with hammers. We injured the bell

more and made about as much noise as we would have done had the tongue been left in.

"It was the custom at that time (I don't suppose it is kept up now) that when anyone died in the town the bell was tolled announcing the person's age and also when the funeral procession was approaching the cemetery.

"The following Sunday the Sexton of the church came to ring the 9 o'clock bell for church. He pulled the bell cord, but he couldn't get any response any more than I could. Upon investigation, it was found that the tongue of the bell was gone. There was a good deal of excitement that day in church. The minister, Mr. Russell, offered a reward from the pulpit of \$25 for the recovery of the tongue of the bell and information as to who had taken it. That was the custom of Mr. Russell. He came down and said: 'Boys, do you know who stole the tongue of the bell?' One of the boys spoke up and said: 'I presume the same man who took it out the night before the Fourth of July must have taken it.' Of course, that pleased us.

"During the evening there was a good deal of noise of cannons fired, and I remember a certain lady who came out in her night clothes (I should say she stood on the lawn in her yard) and said: 'Edward Stocking, Julius Whiting and you, Joe Stoddard, go home and let peaceable folks sleep.'

"I spent my boyhood days in Colebrook, and I love Colebrook. I have returned almost every year since I left."

MODERATOR: "Whatever be the relationship between Colebrook and Winsted, there is no doubt but what Colebrook and Barkhamsted were twins, twin offsprings of one birth, one act of legislature, and it seems proper that Barkhamsted should be represented here this afternoon, and I am going to call on Mr. Leon A. Coe to respond for Barkhamsted."

MR. COE: "Mr. Moderator, citizens of Colebrook.

"I can say to you that Barkhamsted today sends you greetings and hearty congratulations on this, your 150th birthday. Mr. Moderator says we are soon to celebrate a like event. I take a personal interest in coming to this celebration today because you have a street here named after my mother's family—it is called Pinney Street. I think the name still exists today.

"At one time in the town of Barkhamsted we had considerable manufacturing. We have two beautiful streams, and there today are the remains of many old mill dams, but there is no manufacturing, practically. Over on the east branch of the Farmington River, down on what we call Barkhamsted Hollow, we used to manufacture large quantities of cider brandy,

and I understand large quantities were consumed. Some was exported, of course. Those things have all passed, but there are some things that haven't changed materially—some things that could not be taken away from us—the hills, mountains, forests and rivers are there yet and if you don't believe it, go down below Riverton about a mile and a half to what we call our People's Forest. We are proud of it today.

"It has been a delight for me to be here today, and I want to explain just what you escaped. I had a speech written and I came away in a hurry and left it at home."

MODERATOR: "The last speaker on the program is Mr. H. S. Vincent, but before I call on Mr. Vincent I want to give fair warning to another man that we are going to call on him, Mr. Norman F. Thompson, Jr., the chairman of the committee which arranged this celebration. He had the making of the program and left himself off, but I think the audience is entitled to have Mr. Thompson before them and have him say something for himself."

MR. VINCENT: "Mr. Chairman, citizens and friends of Colebrook:

"This has been a splendid day, and I doubt if any spoken word from this platform could add to the excellence of the program. I believe the people up on the platform and the audience would probably like a chance to show their appreciation, so I am going to propose as a tribute to the energetic and resourceful chairman and those who assisted him that this audience give three rousing cheers."

Three cheers given.

MR. THOMPSON: "Mr. Moderator, friends and neighbors.

"I have very little to say and I will make it short. I wish on the part of the town of Colebrook to extend the thanks to the General Committee and to all other committees who have worked hard to accomplish this result.

"On the part of the committee, I would like to thank the town of Colebrook for the opportunity you have given us to serve. We have found inspiration in our work, and in the willingness and cheerfulness and the wonderful co-operation that everybody in town has given us, and therein lies, I think, the greatest part of this whole meeting.

"It has been a bit overwhelming to see how wonderful the spirit of Colebrook has shown itself. My mind fails to grasp the words I want to use to express my appreciation. There is small credit due me, but the committees have worked, and worked hard, and on behalf of the town of Colebrook I want to extend my thanks to them."

Connecticut Tercentenary in Colebrook

In honor of the State's Tercentenary, 1635-1935, Colebrook, along with other cities and towns throughout the state, has planned suitable exercises commemorating its founders. Colebrook, being a typical New England rural town has centered its Tercentenary festivities around the Town's contribution to the state's life during the Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary days.

There were many small manufacturing establishments located along the streams in the town, such as forges where cannon were made, tanneries, saw and planing mills and chair factories. These historic sites are all marked and tours are arranged for those interested in looking them up.

An unusual exhibit of early manufactured articles, including the famed Hitchcock chairs, will be held on August 30 to September 2, at the historic Phelps' Inn in North Colebrook. At this same time, August 30 to September 2, several of the old homes will be open for inspection. Climaxing the festivities will be held a Tercentenary service in the Colebrook Congregational Church on Sunday afternoon, September 1, at 4 o'clock.

The general committee arranging these festivities includes:

Mr. J. Edward Lair, chairman.

Mrs. Robert Seymour, vice-chairman.

Mr. Homer P. Deming, vice-chairman.

Mrs. Evelyn A. Adams.

Mrs. Mary A. Horrax.

Mrs. Mary B. Hurd, chairman, Exhibit Committee.

Mrs. Carolyn Pruyn, chairman, Markers' Committee.

Mr. Joseph A. Rowley.

Miss Adaline Wheeler.

Mrs. W. M. Wheeler, Mr. W. W. Cooper, advisors; members of the County Tercentenary Committee.

Miss Marchen Thompson, secretary to the Committee.

IN CONCLUSION

The Historical Data Committee feels that it is impossible in a volume of this modest size and scope to adequately portray every phase and activity of a community like Colebrook. It has been the aim of the publishers to give as complete a picture as possible of the earlier periods, leaving to a younger generation the task of writing the later ones, from the conviction that the earlier phases should be seized and written down before they pass from memory into oblivion. Among these later divisions of Colebrook's history should be included such subjects as her part in the Civil, Spanish and Great Wars, together with the Fourth of July tradition with its constantly increasing importance, and the like. The tradition would be incomplete without the story of the church bell ringing on the eve of the Fourth, a saga in itself, replete with drama and conflict, in which, sadly enough, the alleged criminal element usually outwitted the guardians of law, order and propriety.

There is among Colebrook people a quality of justifiable pride in both the past and the present. Old landmarks, tales and traditions are guarded jealously. A concrete work of restoration is being done at the Colebrook Congregational Church by a special committee.

A newer idea, meeting present day demands and broader in scope, is the recent incorporation of the Colebrook Associates, whose purpose, among others, is to protect and preserve the natural beauties of the town for the townspeople as well as for an appreciative public.

You have read of the first settlers, their trials, their struggles and their successes, to which Colebrook of today stands as an immortal monument. The old ones have passed, their places taken by successors who recognize the same charm, the same climatic and geographical advantages as did their fore-runners. These successors are in part new blood, in part direct descendants who have clung to the old hearthstones, in part those who, drawn by irresistible instinct, have come back, generations later, to the place of their origins. But all, or practically all, are of old New England stock.

The isolated pioneers driving an upturned wood sled with a dozen ox teams attached to clear the drifted roads are now supplanted by the highway department snow ploughs. Timber tracts, ruthlessly cut off, are slowly coming back to their original stands of pine and hardwood, as are countless acres of meadow and pasture. The land will not be denied its

natural function, so that in time, save for such areas as are kept in cultivation, Colebrook will present much the same primitive and untouched charm as it did to the little cavalcade that made its arduous way in to the first settlement.

Agriculture, once the mainstay of the town, has been relegated to the background. Many of the old houses which were falling rapidly to ruin have been rescued and, for the most part, restored to their original beauty of line and character. Such exceptions as occur merely prove the rule that the average person appreciates simplicity and authentic purity of design. Thus Colebrook is becoming more than ever before a community of homes whose children and children's children will insure its stability, growth and permanence.



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